



ON THE RUN

Annual Turkey Trot draws hundreds of participants

PAGE 2

Wheelin' Around

Skillz on Wheelz tournament raises \$8,000 for charity

PAGE 23



THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008 | VOLUME 34, EDITION 32

www.elon.edu/pendulum

'CIVILIZATION' BREAKS MOLD



ANDIE DIEMER | Photographer

Removing the plaster from the concrete statue is a tedious process that involves chipping away small parts at a time.

Iraqi visitor bounces back after statue vandalism incident

Andie Diemer
News Editor

Scholar-in-Residence Ahmed Fadaam finally released "Civilization from the mold" on Monday morning, when the Iraqi artist and journalist began the stages of taking the plaster off of his masterpiece, which had been brutally disfigured by a vandal just weeks before.

Fadaam freed Civilization, the sculpture of a Middle Eastern woman with dozens of hands sprouting from the ground surrounding her, in a four-hour process. As a waste mold, Fadaam had to break away the mold piece by piece, all while hoping his sculpture underneath had not suffered any damages through the process.

"I'm only worried about one place — here — where I think that we have an air gap," Fadaam said, pointing to Civilization's arm. "But if we can open the mold safely then it's not going to be a big deal. We can fix it later. But for the rest, I'm quite confident that it went on well."

Project Pericles Director Tom Arcaro, who worked to bring Fadaam to campus, said the releasing agent that kept the plaster from bonding to the concrete underneath didn't work as well as they had hoped and that there was some slight damage to the arm that Fadaam was concerned about.

"The chipping off process is more tedious and painstaking than he had planned, but he said that's to be expected that any project is going to have any repairs when you take off the mold," Arcaro said.

The next step is to repair the places where the mold didn't work perfectly.

"If you're expecting a ready-to-display sculpture, you're going to be disappointed at this point," Arcaro said. "But it's a process. You're stressing away the plaster and there's going to be some repairs."

Fadaam's sculpture was vandalized Nov. 19

CIVILIZATION | Page 9

University research trip canceled after terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India

Andie Diemer
News Editor

On Saturday night, a five-member research group from Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center should have been in New York boarding a plane to Hyderabad, India, to attend the third annual United-Nations facilitated Internet Governance Forum. But when terrorist attacks broke out in Mumbai, India — about 450 miles away — on the previous Wednesday, it was up in the air if the group's research efforts would be jeopardized by the possible safety threat.

Trip organizers began to monitor the violent attacks in Mumbai, where the research group's travel plans were routed through, since the terrorists were targeting Americans and the British.

The attacks on Mumbai, which is India's largest city and financial capital, started on Nov. 26 in what culminated as 10 coordinated terrorist attacks.

Indian security forces were able to regain control on Nov. 29, but not before at least 172 people — 34 of which were foreign nationals — were killed and at least another 293 were injured. Attacks took place at a railway station, café, popular tourist restaurant, hospital, Mumbai Police Headquarters and two five-

INDIA | Page 8

Incorrect brick pattern used on Lindner Hall, workers to try staining

Alyse Knorr
Design Editor

Ten percent of the bricks laid on Lindner Hall, the future 30,000-square-foot anchor of the Academic Village, currently under construction, are the wrong pattern.

The Lindner building has a specific blend of brick called Old Mecklenburg. This brick pattern is a blend of multiple colors handmade to look aged by the way the bricks are fired in the brick oven. Some of the bricks in the formula come out darker and others redder, creating an overall color blend that has already been used on the other buildings in the Academic Village.

"The problem was that the formula had changed at the factory," said Neil Bromilow, director of construction management. "What we called Old Mecklenburg had changed. It's as if you bought something



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

A section of Lindner Hall has two different types of brick patterns side by side. On the left, the correct brick pattern has a few dark bricks in each cubic foot. On the right, the incorrect brick pattern contains too many dark bricks.

in paisley or herringbone pattern and they changed some of the thread."

Bromilow said that the brick from the original Old

Mecklenburg formula had changed over time at the brick factory. When Elon told the Lindner Hall's contractor they

BRICKS | Page 9



The Turkey Trot started with a bang as runners took off and jockeyed for position. Laura Brentrup was the first female to complete the race and Dave Gammon, assistant professor of biology, and Claudine Moreau, physics lecturer, were the first male and female faculty to cross the finish line.

KEEPING WARM

Students, faculty and staff brave the cold for 5K glory, success

Photos by Lindsay Fendt, Asst. Photo Editor

More than 200 students took part in the annual 3.1 mile Turkey Trot held Nov. 21 on the South Campus Fields. Students, faculty and staff braved the cold for the 5K run, wearing hats, gloves and sweatshirts. Some students chose to wear left-over halloween costumes instead.

In order to participate in the run, community members had to donate two non-perishable food items. Campus Recreation, who hosted the event, collected 536 canned goods from the event. They will donate the goods to Loaves and Fishes Christian Food Ministry.



Turkey Trot winner Jackson Coppock crosses the finish line.

NEW "CIVILIZATION" COURSE! Spring 2009

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- o The place where *The Matrix* rewrites *Brown v. Board of Education*
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Alex Trevisan, dressed as PacMan, runs from Jeremy Williams and David Wilson, dressed as fellow video game icons Inky and Blinky.



Many of the runners dressed up in interesting outfits despite the cold weather.

Local food banks struggle as economy falters

Laura Smith
Reporter

For the local Alamance County community, money has not just been tight when it comes to buying Christmas presents. The poor economy has taken a big toll on food pantries in the area. With fewer donations, these pantries are finding their shelves empty and their morale down.

The Burlington Salvation Army is one such food pantry. The organization has a small pantry for those who are not eligible for larger pantries, such as Loaves and Fishes. It is strictly for emergency situations and gives to those who cannot receive food stamps.

Robin Drummond, a caseworker at the Burlington Salvation Army, understands the effect of this poor economy on donations to the pantry. The Salvation Army even had to change its guidelines for food distribution when the economy stumbled.

"It's been terrible," Drummond said. "We've been getting less and less food because of the economy."

To beat the economy's negative effects, the Salvation Army is relying on its annual holiday Kettle Drive as well as its Christmas Concert with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, which will be held at Elon University at the Koury Center on December 21 at 3 p.m.

The admission? Fresh food for the hungry. This can include canned or non-perishable food.

In spite of it all, Drummond remains optimistic about the generosity the local community has shown. After a FOX 8 news broadcast that focused on the charity aired a few weeks ago, Drummond explained that giving increased immensely.

"People have been very generous," Drummond said. "We've tried to compromise and work together to make the most of [the food]."

The food pantry within the Alamance County Community Service Agency has also experienced a lack of donations due the economic recession.

Like the Salvation Army, ACCSA has a small food pantry and is used for those in emergency need only. The food given supplies families for 3 to 4 days.

"We've definitely seen a



Volunteers help stock the then-full shelves at Loaves and Fishes in early November. Donations like these have been harder to come by at Loaves and Fishes in recent weeks.

LAURA SMITH | Photographer

Want to help?

Salvation Army
Boys and Girls Club
807 Stockard St.
(336) 227-5529

Alamance County Community Services Agency
(336) 229-7031
P.O. Box 38
troper38@bellsouth.net

Loaves & Fishes Christian Food Ministry, Inc.
P.O. Box 1573
(336) 570-4668

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina
3655 Reed Street I Winston-Salem, NC 27107
(336) 784-5770

decrease," Tony Roper, ACCSA executive director, said. "I went to the pantry today and it looked pretty bare. This time of year, there are usually a lot of donations, but not this year."

Like Drummond, Roper is staying optimistic despite the circumstances however.

"We're open to contributions to help low-income families," he said.

He is positive that Elon can help with these contributions.

"Anything from the campus community is greatly appreciated," he said.

Drummond feels the same way.

"Elon has been very supportive," she said. "We couldn't do a lot without them."

Loaves and Fishes Christian Food Ministry is one of the larger food pantries in the Alamance County area. The pantry

receives no funding from local, state, or federal governments and relies solely on individuals, churches, grants and foundations and businesses. Once accepted that it is in need, the family receives a month's worth of food.

Like the Salvation Army and ACCSA, Loaves and Fishes has been dealing with tough times as well.

"We have over 1000 more people coming in each month," Brenda Ingle Allen, Executive Director, said. "We budgeted for around 6,000 each month, so an additional 1,000 per month has put a real cramp on our food and money situation."

While donations are still steady, it is not necessarily enough.

"Our donations have been up as always, but with a higher number of people searching for assistance the demand far outways the means," she said.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina has seen the lack of donations within these kinds of food pantries. Second Harvest works with 415

pantries in over 18 counties across Northwest North Carolina, supplying food for their shelves.

According to Erin Foster, Marketing Manager, donations of food have been down 15 percent compared to last year and there has been a 30 to 100 percent increase of people coming to get food from these pantries that Second Harvest provides for.

Second Harvest itself has had a hard time obtaining the food for these 415 pantries.

"We have not been able to get as much food as in the past because of the economic recession," Foster said.

And it may be surprising to find out that a larger population of those in need of the food is not what many may think.

"Hungry people in the community are not just the homeless," Foster said. "It is becoming more common that the middle class is part of this."

Due to factors such as job cuts and rising prices on essential items, food has been harder to come by for many families.

"The food has been going out as fast as it has been coming in," Foster said.

Like the Salvation Army, ACCSA and Loaves and Fishes, Second Harvest relies on the generosity of others to help out with the lack of food.

"We look to the community to fill that gap," Foster said.

Second Harvest is currently utilizing its website, its volunteers, and food drives to encourage donating.

"There are three things the community can donate," Foster said. "Money, food, and their time."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Masquerade ball on Friday

Elon's Ballroom Dance Club is holding a Holiday Masquerade Ball on Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Center for the Arts.

Attendees are asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to the Alamance County Food Bank.

Four seniors selected for Teach for America

Elon seniors Ivy Crank, John Planisek, Lindsay Clement and Chase Rumley have been selected to join Teach for America. The program recruits college graduates to commit two years to teach in low-income communities across the country.

Teach for America corps members must demonstrate high levels of achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and work responsibilities. Last year, nine Elon students joined the program.

Annual Christmas Love Feast on Sunday

The Moravian Christmas Love Feast and Candle Service will be held on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Elon Community Church. The feast will consist of sweet buns and coffee and will feature seasonal music, including selections by the bell choirs, the chancel choir, organ and oboe.

All members of the Elon community are welcome to attend.

Communications Dean, faculty members author chapter in journalism book

Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, and assistant professors Glenn Scott and Richard Landesberg have authored a chapter that appears in the 2009 edition of the book "Global Journalism: Topical Issues and Media Systems."

The chapter is titled "Barriers to Media Development" and addresses the physical, cultural, economic, governmental and technological barriers that limit the development of strong communications infrastructures in certain nations.

Adjunct professor given Lifetime Achievement Award

Alec French, adjunct professor in the department of health and human performance, was given the "PEA Lifetime Achievement Award" by the North Carolina Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance at its annual convention.

French has been a member of the adjunct faculty at Elon for over 10 years and has been involved as a physical education leader in local, state and national professional organizations.

Ever Elon launch held in Washington, D.C.

More than 100 Elon alumni and parents from the Washington, D.C. area attended the regional launch of Ever Elon on Nov. 19. President Lambert attended the event, which was hosted by Charles Clohan, '98.

After a reception, Lambert presented the central goals of the campaign and emphasized the important role of young alumni in helping Ever Elon reach its financial goals.





TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES | Chicago Tribune/MCT Campus

President-elect Barack Obama takes questions from reporters after announcing his national security team at a press conference at the Chicago Hilton & Towers on Dec. 1, in Chicago, Illinois. From left, Attorney General-designate Eric Holder; Homeland Security Secretary-designate Janet Napolitano; Defense Secretary Robert Gates; Vice President-elect Joe Biden; Obama; Secretary of State-designate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y.; National Security Adviser-designate Ret. Marine Gen. James Jones; and United Nations Ambassador-designate Susan Rice.

Obama churning out Cabinet members

Andie Diemer
News Editor

President-elect Barack Obama is rounding out his national security team and appointed former campaign rival Hillary Clinton as secretary of state during a press conference Monday. He also announced he will keep the Bush administration's Defense Secretary Robert Gates on in the same position and named former Justice Department official Eric Holder as attorney general.

"She possesses an extraordinary intelligence and toughness and a remarkable work ethic," Obama said when he introduced Clinton. "She is an American of tremendous stature who

will have my complete confidence, who knows many of the world's leaders, who will command respect in every capital and who will clearly have the ability to advance our interests around the world."

Retired Marine Gen. Jim Jones will fill in as national security adviser, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as homeland security secretary and campaign foreign policy adviser Susan Rice as ambassador to the United Nations.

Former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle will step up as Secretary of Health and Human Services and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson will act as commerce secretary.

"I assembled this team because I am a strong believer in strong personalities and strong opinions," Obama said during the press conference.

These individuals will work as the top echelon of advising for Obama on foreign and national security issues during a global "war on terror."

While Obama said he is going to welcome "a vigorous debate inside the White House," he reconfirmed he will still be setting policy as the president.

"I will be responsible for the vision that this team carries out, and I will expect them to implement that vision once decisions are made," he said.

With half of his 15-member Cabinet in place, Obama is continuing to rapidly

name those who will accompany him in office only a month after Election Day.

The most important roles at State, Justice, Treasury and Defense have all been instated.

"[My appointees] share my pragmatism about the use of power and my sense of purpose about America's role as a leader in the world," he said.

The national security appointments were made just a week after his economic team was named, which will be led by Federal Reserve Bank of New York President Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary.

Obama said this is all in an effort to be able to "hit the ground running" when he is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

Provost search narrowed to two candidates, campus visits next

Whitney Bossie
News Editor

Two candidates for the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs have been chosen to visit campus and make public presentations to faculty and staff.

The Provost Search Committee chose Steven House, dean of Elon College of Arts and Sciences and associate vice president for academic affairs, and Elizabeth Paul, vice provost at The College of New Jersey, as the final two candidates.

House will give a presentation at 4:10 p.m. tomorrow in the LaRose Digital Theatre. Paul's presentation will take place at 4:10 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9 in the same location.

In addition to the presentations, each candidate will meet with students, faculty, staff and trustees

during his or her respective two-day visit. The visits will end with an exit interview with President Leo Lambert.

Several students will be invited to attend sessions with each candidate during his or her visit. Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications and co-chair of the search committee, said SGA leaders, student media leaders, Honors Fellows and other members of the student body will attend the sessions.

"Interaction with students is important in both directions," he said. "We want provost finalists to talk with students about academics and student life at Elon so that candidates better understand the motivations of our students, and we value student feedback into the selection process."

The provost oversees academic affairs, admissions and financial planning, student life, intercollegiate

athletics, institutional research, sponsored programs and cultural affairs. The provost also serves as assistant secretary and assistant treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

Current Provost Gerry Francis will move to the office of executive vice president. Francis has served as the provost since 1994.

House began his career by spending 14 years at Seton Hall University, including four years as the associate dean of arts and sciences. He came to Elon as the founding dean of Elon College in 2001 and became associate vice president in 2006.

Paul, a psychology professor, has spent 17 years at The College of New Jersey. She has served as chair of the psychology department, interim vice president for student life and interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. She currently serves

as vice provost.

"Both finalists have significant experience, a commitment to academic excellence and a student-centered mindset," Parsons said. "They have a history of progressively increasing responsibilities at their institutions, which is a sign of high respect and confidence in their ability to lead."

The search committee received 110 applications for the position. The pool was narrowed to 14 applicants who were given serious consideration. From the group of 14, eight were invited for preliminary interviews and then the two finalists were chosen.

Parsons said the committee will gather campus feedback after the visits and report it to President Lambert before Christmas break. Lambert will then make the final decision.

Amount of applications stays level despite economy woes

Keegan Calligar
Reporter

Despite the dwindling economy and fears about future finances, Elon University has received virtually the same amount of early decision applications as it did last year, said Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions.

Nearly all businesses, including colleges and universities, are suffering from the poor economic climate. Declining stocks and failing companies have created great uncertainty and many admissions officers predicted a decline in early decision applications this fall.

Officials at many private colleges were especially worried, where tuitions are generally higher than at public institutions.

When applying early decision, an applicant agrees to attend the university if accepted, before learning about any potential financial aid package.

Surprisingly, many schools — including Elon — have reported equal, and even increased, applications from recent years.

He said this year's number of early-decision

applicants are on par with last year.

"It has increased overall maybe 1 percent," Zaiser said. "We're really excited that our applicant pool is as large as it was last year and it appears as though it is as strong as last year, but we're not taking anything for granted, which means we're diligent again on keeping Elon at the forefront [of colleges]."

Because of the current recession, many colleges are suffering from shrinking endowments and, according to a Nov. 7 New York Times article, schools across the country are implementing hiring freezes, cutting back on renovations and considering changing need-blind policies.

Currently, Elon's admissions are completely need-blind, meaning the admissions office does not look at an applicant's financial status when determining whether or not to admit the individual to the university.

And, for the time being, the university will stay that way.

"We've not discussed [changing from being need-blind]," Zaiser said. "That is not part of our plan at this time."

Zaiser said while it's difficult to predict the future economy, the university does have planned changes to react to the volatile market.

"The hard part here is no one knows how the economy will affect enrollment in colleges and universities," he said. "One could assume or imagine that it will make it harder. We're planning on focusing our efforts on what we call yield, which is converting students who have been accepted to enroll."

To attract new students, Zaiser said university representatives will continue to travel to high schools to educate people about Elon and the school will offer on-campus events for accepted students.

"We've sort of reevaluated our message to prospective families," Zaiser said. "We've never really, in previous years, focused on the word value and there's tremendous value in an Elon education."

Admissions officers will also emphasize the facilities and accessible faculty that distinguish Elon.

"What we're trying to do is kind of convey the value of an education, especially when in this economy, public schools are potentially going to be very attractive because of their cost," Zaiser said.

Holiday event to celebrate African heritage

African-American and multicultural programs to hold Kwanzaa celebration

Rachel Cieri
Reporter

As a way to share the history, values and culture of the African heritage holiday with the Elon community, the Multicultural Student Council and African/African-American Studies programs will co-host a Kwanzaa celebration from 3:35 to 5:15 p.m on Friday, Dec. 5 in the African-American Resource Room.

"MSC was looking to have a holiday celebration, when Prudence Layne, the director of the AAAS program, suggested that we co-sponsor a Kwanzaa celebration, simply because it is something that had not been previously seen at Elon," said Cheavane Dierdick, a student program coordinator for the Multicultural Student Council. "Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated by many and deserves to be acknowledged in this community."

Students can participate in a smaller version of Karamu, a traditional feast that includes five traditional parts: welcoming, remembering, reassessment and recommitment, rejoicing and a farewell statement calling for unity.

The welcoming portion of the event will consist of a short video about the history of Kwanzaa. The remembering portion will include poetry readings as well as a performance from Elon's praise team.

The reassessment and recommitment aspect of the celebration will feature a speech from Leon Williams, the director of the Multicultural Center. The farewell portion will be the traditional Kwanzaa Libation Statement, which honors



Arielle Davis lights a Kwanzaa candle at the Richard Rodda Community Center in Teaneck, N.J. on Dec. 8, 2007. The Bergen and Passaic County Coalition of 100 Black Women hosted the event.

African ancestors and sets the tone for the future.

All are welcome to attend the event, from those who regularly celebrate the holiday to those who are unfamiliar with it but wish to learn more.

"It is important for individuals to have a better understanding of various cultures and practices, and Kwanzaa is a significant holiday which many people celebrate but many more people know very little about," Dierdick said.

Dierdick pointed out that Kwanzaa celebrates values like unity, collective work and responsibility, all of which are qualities Elon values. The celebration will give students a chance to learn more about the holiday while enjoying refreshments and entertainment.



Friends and family join hands to share Kwanzaa blessings before eating special dishes prepared by Maisie McNaught at her home in Miami Gardens, Fla. Dec. 6, 2007.

Nguzo Saba (The seven principles)

Umoja (Unity): To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves,

create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To

build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity): To do always

as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith): To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Detwiler named Mitchell Scholar, will study in Ireland

Whitney Bossie
News Editor

Senior Breanna Detwiler has been named a 2009-2010 George J. Mitchell Scholar. She is the first Elon student to receive the award.

The award is sponsored by the nonprofit U.S.-Ireland Alliance, which is dedicated to strengthening relations between the United States and Ireland. It was created 10 years ago in honor of a former senator who helped broker a peace accord in Northern Ireland.

Twelve scholars were chosen out of a pool of 300 applicants from colleges and universities across the country. The scholarship funds one year of postgraduate study in any discipline that is offered at a college or university in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

After graduating in May, Detwiler will spend a year at University College Cork to work toward earning a master's degree in law. She will then return to the United States to continue her education.

"Being a Mitchell Scholar means a great deal to me," Detwiler said. "It means the opportunity to study law in Ireland and really gain an international perspective into the issues I have been studying domestically, which will help me tremendously in my work after law school."

Detwiler is an environmental studies major, with minors in non-violence and religious studies. She plans to study environmental law.

Detwiler began the application process as soon as she returned to campus after summer break. She worked closely with associate professor Janet Myers, who is Elon's coordinator of national and international fellowships, to polish her application

before sending it off in early October.

In late October, she was asked to visit Arlington, Va. for semi-finalist interviews. She was then asked to visit Washington, D.C. for finalist interviews on Nov. 22.

Detwiler was notified of her selection that evening after the finalist interviews, as she and her mom headed to the train station.

"I was very excited," she said. "My mom and I were dancing all over the car. I couldn't believe it for days, especially after meeting all the amazing finalists and hearing about their remarkable work. I felt like I had to be dreaming."

Myers, who first met Detwiler through her former role as associate director of the Honors program, said she was "delighted," but not surprised by Detwiler's accomplishment.

"The Mitchell Scholarship was a great match to Breanna's interests and talents," Myers said. "The foundation seeks students who have demonstrated records of academic excellence, leadership and a commitment to community service. Bre has excelled in all of these areas at Elon and has managed to blend her academic success with significant work outside the classroom."

Detwiler is an Honors Fellow and is also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. She is involved in several campus organizations, including Students for Peace and Justice, College Democrats and the Student Environmental Sustainability Council. Detwiler currently serves as the student coordinator of the Elon Academy and manages the Elon Community Garden.

In addition to being named a Mitchell Scholar, Detwiler was chosen as a 2008 Truman Scholar and a 2008 Udall Scholar. It was the first time an Elon student received either honor.



Senior Breanna Detwiler will spend a year at University College Cork, where she will begin to pursue a degree in law.

"She has achieved a number of 'firsts' in Elon's fellowship program," Myers said.

The selection committee for the 2009-2010 scholars was composed of leaders of various fields, including a writer for The New Yorker, a former NASA astronaut, the CEO of Kiva.org and Ireland's Ambassador to the United States.



FILE PHOTO

The 2,000 luminaries are lit by members of the Student Government Association. They start setting up the luminaries around 2 p.m., and it takes several hours to complete the process.

Holiday lighting ceremony starts the season

On Thursday, Elon University will light more than 2,000 luminaries around the center campus quad as part of the annual lighting ceremony. Students, faculty, staff and members of the Elon community will join together for holiday caroling, the lighting of a menorah and the illumination of more than 50,000 lights on the buildings and trees.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Fonville Fountain. Hot chocolate and cider will be served. Children can ride on the Little Blue Choo and pay visits to Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The celebration is sponsored by the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life. The lighting ceremony tradition has evolved over the years to incorporate traditions for those who celebrate Hanukkah.

"When I started at Elon in 1984, there was the Tree Lighting Ceremony,"

said Richard McBride, university chaplain and master of ceremonies. "I liked to tell everyone it was a great Christmas card moment. Since then, we added the Hanukkah traditions, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the Little Blue Choo. The Festival of Lights has not stopped growing."

The Little Blue Choo was added four years ago and was based loosely off the popular holiday storybook, "The Polar Express."

Last year, the Dickens Carolers, dressed in 18th century attire, performed with the Elon Brass Quintet.

"Truly, this tradition is a festive holiday celebration," McBride said. "That's the best way to describe it. It has become the beginning of Elon's holiday season. The Festival of Lights is a genuinely joyful community event and valuable experience before the end of the semester."



FILE PHOTO

The Dickens Carolers perform holiday songs in front of Alameda at the festival in 2007.

Student group pressures Elon to join Worker Rights Consortium

Maggie Castor
Reporter

Members of Students for Peace and Justice met with Vickie Somers, director of auxiliary services, on Nov. 29 to discuss the possibility of Elon joining the Worker Rights Consortium.

The Worker Rights Consortium was founded in 2000 with the intention of helping universities ensure that items bearing a university's name come from factories that properly follow safety procedures and provide their employees with suitable conditions and benefits. The organization was created by a group of university administrators, students and international labor rights experts.

Joining the Worker Rights Consortium has been on the SFPJ agenda for six years now, but the university has chosen to remain observant until the organization further proves itself as a worthwhile commitment.

Junior Martina Dent, president of SFPJ, said there was much resistance at first.

"Elon University originally had reservations about joining the Worker Rights Consortium because it was seen as a radical group during its first couple of years of operation," Dent said.

Elon is currently a member of the Fair Labor Association, which has very similar goals as the Worker Rights Consortium. Both organizations' mission statements state the overall goal is to improve working conditions by enforcing all labor laws to create a safe working environment as well as to provide livable work wages and benefits.

But there is a difference between the two organizations in the way they conduct inspections

at the factories a university works with to get collegiate clothing. [See sidebar for more information].

Sophomore SFPJ member Molly Schriber said she doesn't know why the administration is hesitant to join the organization since more than 180 schools are members, including prestigious institutions such as Duke and Princeton universities.

"It is a great step that we have joined the Fair Labor Association, but there are schools that are willing to be a part of both," Schriber said.

Elon has made big strides in recent years toward limiting the possibilities of using sweatshop labor by joining the Fair Labor Association. In addition, ARAMARK locations such as Acorn and Brown & Co. have begun to use fair labor companies like TS Designs for their uniforms.

When asked if she would be willing to set up a meeting with a Worker Rights Consortium representative, Somers said she would be more than happy to discuss further relations.

"Elon University prefers to work with the Fair Labor Association at this point in time because we feel that it is more beneficial to be working with the actual companies that are producing our clothing," Somers said. "It is also my personal opinion, from monitoring both organizations, that they will eventually merge."

But this isn't stopping SFPJ from continuing its efforts to constantly get the campus to take the next step toward eliminating sweatshop labor. The organization is currently working to bring a representative from the Worker Rights Consortium to speak to its members.

The difference between Workers Rights Consortium and Fair Labor Association

United Students Against Sweatshops has outlined how the Worker Rights Consortium and the Fair Labor Association operate in dissimilar ways.

The Worker Rights Consortium is an independent monitoring organization with a governing board consisting of a variety of officials, including representatives from United Students Against Sweatshops, the Worker Rights Consortium University Caucus and the Worker Rights Consortium Advisory Council.

When investigating a factory, the visit is unannounced and must include an on-site worker or community member.

Worker interviews are also conducted outside the workplace to guarantee honest answers from employees while being able to remain anonymous.

This organization also makes all the information it collects public and makes great efforts to work with the schools and factories involved to improve working conditions.

United Students Against Sweatshops said the Fair Labor Association takes a different approach to investigating the factories that are being used.

Elon, an affiliated university with the Fair Labor Association, has 10 percent of its factories monitored every year. Investigations done by the Fair Labor Association are led by the corporations that own the factories such as ADIDAS, Nike or Puma.

Students go on a search for Phoenix Phind

The Resident Student Association's annual Phoenix Phind, held Nov. 21 through Nov. 23, sent student teams on a mission to complete a list of 143 items.

The list required teams to find items such as a pair of rainboots in every color of the rainbow (worth 100 points), a season pass to Dollywood (worth 80 points) and a stuffed Humpty Dumpty (worth 25 points).

The list also required teams to take their pictures at many different locations, including Brightwood Steakhouse (worth 45 points) and the Battle of Clapp's Mill Marker (worth 65 points).

In order to be sure that the photos were taken during the competition, team members had to make a Phoenix Phind hand signal in each photo.

Roger Black, Lindsay Fendt and Sean Glynn made up Black and Bluth, which placed fourth in the competition. Twelve teams participated. Team Domination took first place, winning the \$600 prize.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

A picture in front of the World's Largest Chest of Drawers, located in High Point, was worth 75 points.



Black and Bluth team member Roger Black and friend Nicole Kiefer researched the answers to questions on the list.

How to be prepared for Phoenix Phind:

- Comfortable clothing is required
- Work together as a team
- Determination, strength and endurance is all you need
- Eat a well-balanced meal and don't forget energy drinks
- Get a good night's sleep before the event
- Stay positive



The team went to a rest stop off of I-85 South to get a picture of a team member washing his hair in the rest stop's bathroom, which was worth 20 points.



A picture of a team member holding a surfboard was worth 80 points, so the team went to the Pac Sun store at Burlington Square Mall.



The team took a picture on a merry-go-round in High Point for 100 points.



Alpha Omicron Pi's porch emitted holiday cheer after the Loy Lights Up Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 23.



Sigma Kappa's porch was illuminated with icicle lights to ring in the holiday season.

Greek Life hosted its annual Loy Lights Up Celebration Nov. 23. Each Greek house was given \$25 to put toward holiday decorations, and some donated their own money. Greek organizations without a house were given space in the roundabout to decorate. Once decorations were hung, families from Elon, members of Greek organizations and potential new members joined for hot chocolate and cookies.

DECK THE HOUSES

with lights and garlands

Photos by David Wells, Photo Editor



An inflatable snowman greets visitors to the Kappa Sigma house in the Greek courts.

Periclean Scholars sell discount cards to support work in Ghana

Rebecca Wetherbee
Reporter

The 2010 Periclean Scholars will sell discount cards in Moseley this week to support their service work in Ghana. The \$5 cards valid through the end of 2009 and can be used at 10 local businesses, a retail Web site and Periclean Scholars' events.

All proceeds benefit a healthcare center in rural Kpeota, Ghana.

The new 10-room building, which has already been erected, still requires furnishings and medical supplies.

"The health center required more than \$20,000 to construct, of which over \$17,000 was provided

by the Pericleans," said faculty mentor Heidi Frontani. "Three 2010 Pericleans visited the health center under construction while studying abroad last Winter Term and another three this fall. They were greeted by literally hundreds of Ghanaians who were grateful for the Pericleans' support."

They are also working to hire a midwife for the health center.

"We're hoping to raise another building for a midwife to stay in full-time," said Amanda Brown, who is heading the project.

Students who don't have the opportunity to purchase a card in Moseley can contact Brown at abrown19@elon.edu.

Where to use it:

- All That JAS
- Ayindisa
- Dan Thai
- Domino's Pizza
- Irazu Coffee Shoppe

- Little Italy Italian Restaurant
- Mike's Deli
- 2010 Periclean Scholars
- Red Bowl Asian Bistro
- Sandy's Steaks and Subs
- Smitty's Homemade Ice Cream
- Tan Oasis

Trip canceled after 10 consecutive attacks

INDIA from Page 1

star hotels.

Mumbai's port area was also under fire and a taxi explosion near the airport is currently being investigated as a connection.

While a decision had to be made about the continuation of the research group's plans, administrators and trip organizers had to wait until the day before departure to make a final assessment of whether or not sophomores Eugene Daniel, Drew Smith, junior Ashley Barnas, senior Shelley Russell and trip adviser Colin Donohue, communications professor and Pendulum adviser, should go.

The U.S. State Department was not advising against travel, but it was advising people to be 'vigilant' if they were traveling to India.

But even though the flights could have been rerouted and officials from the United Nations and the Government of India assured Elon officials it was still safe to travel, plans were canceled for the Dec. 1-6 trip.

After consulting with Larry Basirico, dean of international programs, and Nancy Midgette, associate provost, during break and given the information on hand at the time, School of Communications Dean Paul Parsons made a recommendation to Janna Anderson, head of the Imagining the Internet Center, to cancel the trip.

"A decision like this always involves a comparison of risk versus reward," Parsons said.

But since the terrorist attack introduced risk into the equation, a decision to forego the trip had to be made before it could asserted if the risk was minimal or not, Parsons said.

"The students and I were excited for the trip to India. It would've been a wonderful research and working experience for everyone involved," Donohue said. "It was a shame that the trip had to end, but the terrorist attacks

that lasted three days were tragic and worrisome."

Donohue said others who were supposed to attend the IGF canceled their reservations and several businesses headquartered in Mumbai and Hyderabad canceled their plans in wake of the terrorist attacks.

"In the end, I wanted to make sure we erred heavily on the side of caution, and that feeling was taken into consideration before the trip was canceled," Donohue said. "It was a deciding factor."

Smith said the trip had been in the works for about a month and that he had been conducting weekly meetings with Anderson to discuss the research being planned to conduct.

"I got my visa in the mail two weeks ago and I was all set to go until we got news about the attacks," Smith said. While the trip would have provided him with a research opportunity and different cultural experience, he said he did feel uneasy about flying through Mumbai since the attacks were ongoing and targeted at someone like himself.

"It was a let down for it to get canceled the day before we were supposed to leave, after all the preparation," he said. "But it's understandable the school decided not to send us because the attacks happened days before we were set to arrive."

Smith said it affects the Elon's Imagining the Internet Center the most.

"The center had documented all of the previous IGFs, and now the piece of Internet history that is happening in Hyderabad will not receive the same depth of coverage," he said.

The group was set to produce documentary video reports on the IGF, which would have been added to Imagining the Internet, an online resource illuminating the past, present and future of the Internet.

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Elon students lend a hand to bring 'Cheer' to families in need

Whitney Bossie
News Editor

For many Alamance County families, Christmas is coming during difficult economic times. Christmas Cheer, a local organization that works to provide Christmas gifts, dinners and donations to families in need, is working overtime this year to ensure that everyone can enjoy the holiday season.

The organization takes applications from community members and then assigns families to the organizations, church groups, clubs and individuals that volunteer. The current economic conditions have made the Christmas Cheer mission particularly difficult this year.

"There is always a need, but this year it's even bigger," said Dawn Sternal, executive director of Christmas Cheer. "There are families who would usually be able to give assistance that are now asking us for assistance."

The number of people who are able to adopt families has dropped as well,

according to Sternal.

Several of Elon's student groups and organizations have helped to ease the burden by adopting families who have applied to Christmas Cheer. Senior Elizabeth Creekmuir, who is working as an intern for the organization, said Elon's participation is at an all-time high this year.

"Many [student] organizations have adopted one or even up to five families with multiple children," she said. "Some organizations have also provided turkey dinners, toy donations and monetary donations."

Creekmuir acts as a liaison between Elon students and Christmas Cheer, helping to spread the word about the organization and its mission. She said her role is new to the organization, and that it has been especially helpful in encouraging students to participate.

"Tons of organizations have allowed me to come in and explain to them a little more about Christmas Cheer and what we do," she said.

Freshman Megan Riddle's Elon 101 class is currently raising money to

support a Christmas Cheer family.

Riddle is in charge of the effort. She said each student in the class has donated \$5 to \$10, and they are also considering holding a bake sale or a dorm storm.

"Most Elon students have so much, and especially with the economy the way it is, it's important to reach out to those who aren't as fortunate," Riddle said. "I think we sometimes forget that we are part of the Burlington community, but we are and it's important to reach out."

Sternal said that, through this program, Elon students have the ability to make a difference in the local community.

"We're absolutely thrilled, excited and grateful for any participation that Elon has with us," she said. "The students and organizations make such a difference helping our needy elderly and children in Alamance County."

Sternal also noted the importance of a strong connection between Elon and the surrounding community.

"It lets the citizens of Alamance County realize how much the students

Want to help? You can:

- Call 336-229-9969
- Stop by the office, located at 331 Main St. in Burlington
- E-mail Elizabeth Creekmuir at ecreekmuir@elon.edu

and university care about and do for our community," she said. "It makes such a difference in the lives of so many, and it lets so many people realize students aren't just getting an education in academics, but also in humanity."

Anyone who is interested in participating in Christmas Cheer can call 336-229-9969 or stop by the office, located at 331 Main St. in Burlington.

Fadaam's work supported by fellow artists in community

CIVILIZATION from Page 1

when an unknown vandal broke into the warehouse he was working in and smeared Civilization's face, lopped off her breasts and smashed a hammer into the back of her head.

After working for several hours to repair the damages of the statue that he believes represents a noble cause about women in the Middle East and their fight for their future, Fadaam was then able to cast her.

He said many artists, some of whom he had never even met, who heard about the damage contacted him to express their condolences and support him.

"They rushed to send me e-mails to express their support and sympathy and I found it really great," Fadaam said. "I was speechless when I was reading those."

However, he told them not to worry or feel sorry for him, since it would make him feel weak.

Instead, he reminded them that art has survived history.

"We are stronger than time, and art has survived and will keep surviving because of us — the artists, because of you and because of me," Fadaam said. "A bunch of people, like those who looted my school in 2003 or those who vandalized my statue now, are not going to stop us."

The statue is expected to be unveiled in the spring and will be placed on campus as a gift from Fadaam.

Fadaam's Purpose:

Artist-in-Residence Ahmed Fadaam said the concrete statue of a Middle Eastern woman is significant for several reasons, but most importantly highlights the plight of women to gain equality.

"I came from a zone of conflict, a warzone, and I wanted to show some of what's happening there," he said.

Art professor Evan Gatti, who is on the committee to choose a location for Fadaam's piece on campus, believes his work is important because it shares his personal experiences as an artist and a journalist, establishes a link to Elon and brings his messages together in forms other than just reading the paper.

"[His work] especially talks about women and their place in Iraq, and that it's not just an Iraq or American problem, but is a problem for civilization," Gatti said. "He sees the treatment of women as a way of looking at civilization as a whole."

Fadaam said Iraqi women fought for 35 years under a dictator for their rights and did manage to advance in society. Some women became doctors, scientists, engineers and

even ministers, and many believed there was hope that after liberation they would have even more equality to other women in the new world.

"They were disappointed because, in what is so-called the 'Age of freedom,' they have lost everything that was won before," he said.

They are being held back by lots of extremists, tribal men and ignorant men who are attempting to return to the age of slavery, he said.

"Elon is such a great place for intellectuals and smart people and if my statue can be a way to talk to them and to attract their attention to what's happening in my country, then maybe they can be part of helping the people there," he said.

Gatti admires his message and hopes the sculpture will be placed near the new Lindner Pavilion after being unveiled. She believes his work embodies what Elon pushes as a liberal arts and sciences school and will foster conversation about the treatment of women.

"The piece may raise some eyebrows and ruffle some feathers, but we're looking forward to the conversation different people will have through the different perspectives it raises," Gatti said.

Mishap began at brick provider who had variations in common brick formula

BRICKS from Page 1

wanted the original formula, the company shipped some of the bricks and the mason started putting them up on the building.

"It wasn't until he put up a wall tall enough for us to see that there were too many dark bricks in the blend they sent us," Bromilow said.

Bromilow said that the new, changed Old Mecklenburg formula at the factory resulted in too many dark bricks being sent to Elon for the Lindner building.

"Of all of the brick on the building, 10 percent is wrong," Bromilow said.

The incorrect dark brick mix was placed on one of the building's east walls, facing the tennis courts. This wall now has too many dark bricks to match the rest of the building or the other Academic Village structures.

"The Lindner building is meant to look like it's part of the Academic Village," Bromilow said. "If the bricks were different, it wouldn't look like it was part of the complex."

Bromilow said the next step will be an experiment

with coloring to try and stain the extra dark bricks to a lighter color.

So far, the weather has been too wet and cold to try the staining experiment, but Bromilow said he expects it to take place next week. In the meantime, construction workers have been laying the correct brick formula without the extra dark bricks.

The brick mix up will not slow down construction on the Lindner building, because the structure's brickwork was not a critical part of the process.

Bromilow said that construction on the building should be complete by July, and that the brickwork will be finished before Christmas.

"The bottom line is that the brickwork is proceeding on schedule with the correct blend of bricks," Bromilow said.

The several thousand extra dark bricks that have not yet been laid will be sent to a recycling center to be crushed and made into decorative gravel.

Town of Elon citizens express concern over parties, unsafe drinking

Alyse Knorr
Design Editor

Citizens and board members at Monday night's Board of Aldermen agenda session discussed town-gown concerns such as noise violations, underage drinking and lewd conduct at parties.

Eugene Grimley, Elon chemistry professor and husband to Alderwoman Jo Grimley, said that Elon University's increasing enrollment rates may be causing "growing pains" that derail Elon's peaceful small-town atmosphere.

Grimley said he is concerned with noise and parking violations, theft, vandalism and disrespect for private property that create unsafe situations and hurt the town's image.

"To do nothing is not acceptable to the town's citizens," Grimley said.

He urged the Elon police department to become more proactive

in enforcing laws.

Joe Libera, a 20-year Elon resident, said that every weekend at Elon, three ingredients come together to raise havoc: alcohol, the hours of 12 to 3 a.m. and young men.

Libera said the town's noise ordinances should play more of a role in mitigating the effects of weekend parties and recommended that the town reiterate the noise ordinance and urge citizens to make calls to the police department. He said this proactive attitude could save lives and deter risky behavior.

Citizen Bonnie Kirk also expressed concern over Elon student noise violations and littering.

"I am really concerned about what's happening to the town," Kirk said. "It's nice to walk around during the summer, but you take your life in your hands if you try to when school is in session."

Alderwoman Grimley agreed with the citizens and asked why police officers can't stop parties when they observe them instead of having to wait for noise violation calls from citizens.

Town Manager Mike Dula responded by saying that the police department cannot serve as witnesses for noise violations in court because so much of this observation is based on subjective individual perception. In order for a police officer to give a student a warning or a citation, the noise violation call must come from a neighbor.

"The police always try to make good charges," Dula said. "That's why the police and the ordinances work the way they do."

Alderman Ron Klepcyk suggested sending out a stronger message about noise violations to change attitudes, but not necessarily aim for more convictions.

Kirk mentioned that police patrols could be a deterrent to students walking to and from parties, going outside and screaming during parties and drinking outside.

"We're talking about illegal behavior, period," Eugene Grimley said. "It's this board's responsibility — it's in your town."

Mayor Jerry Tolley suggested that Dula, Chief of Police LaVelle Lovette and the town's legal counsel convene and re-evaluate town ordinances. He suggested calling High Point University and other small-town schools to see what they're doing and how the Town of Elon can emulate it.

"Town-gown is a tough thing, but it can work," Dula said.

Next week, the board will vote on the members of the Library Building Committee, the 2009 Town of Elon holiday schedule and the 2009 Board of Aldermen schedule.

Editorial

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

Actions of Middle Eastern extremists does not define culture Society must not allow recent attacks in India to fuel prejudice and bias

Americans, still nursing scars that will never heal from Sept. 11, spent the holidays watching the most recent footage of the carnage wrecked in India's financial district. Many woke up Thanksgiving morning and watched the news reports of the final Taj Mahal Hotel standoff, flipping channels between reports on the rising death toll and the superfluously chipper spirit of Macy's Thanksgiving Day reporters.

It is easy to take the most recent terror attacks and make a shallow and highly prejudiced case against those of Middle Eastern descent.

Before such quick action is taken, U.S. citizens need to turn that critical and unyielding eye inward, especially toward the tragic events that occurred on Black Friday.

On Black Friday, an uncaring and unrelenting throng of consumers knocked over a security guard in a New York Wal-Mart and subsequently trampled him to death.

According to the New York Post, the metal portion of the door frame the guard opened before being knocked to the ground was "crumpled like an accordion." A 28-year-old pregnant woman was also knocked over, and others were rushed to the hospital.

Violent of such an unbelievable nature broadcast by television networks have more recently been at the hands of Middle Eastern extremists. It appears

that in a first world, civilized country, citizens can take on the traits of these violent radicals.

Is it fair to make the assumption that all Americans are blood-thirsty consumers since a few were so eager to get the marked-down flat screen that they took the life of another human being? Of course not, just as it is not fair to assume that all Middle Eastern Muslims are gun-toting terrorists bent on murder and mayhem.

American society is quick to judge and always ready to blame. People must not take atypical situations, no matter how tragic, and make generalizations that affect a culture that is greater than a few insane and criminal individuals.

In light of these most recent terrorist attacks in India, it is important that a broader perspective is taken and that blame is not inaccurately placed on a society or religious sect, but on those who actually committed the atrocities.

A USA Today/Gallup Poll of 1,007 Americans conducted in 2006 concluded that Americans have strong anti-Muslim feelings. One-third of those survey respondents believed all Muslims were sympathetic to al-Qaida and 39 percent favored American-Muslims carrying a special identification card "as a means of preventing terrorist attacks in the United States."

It is a tragedy such bias exists and it would be brutally unfair if the millions of Muslims not guilty

of partaking in these heinous crimes suffered from prejudice stemming from the terrorist attacks.

Extreme Christian groups have murdered homosexuals and blown up abortion clinics, justifying their actions, similar to Muslim extremists, with the will of God.

Christian activist Eric Rudolph was given life in prison after bombing an abortion clinic, killing an off-duty police officer and maiming a nurse. He claimed to have conducted four such bombings in Birmingham and at the 1996 Olympics.

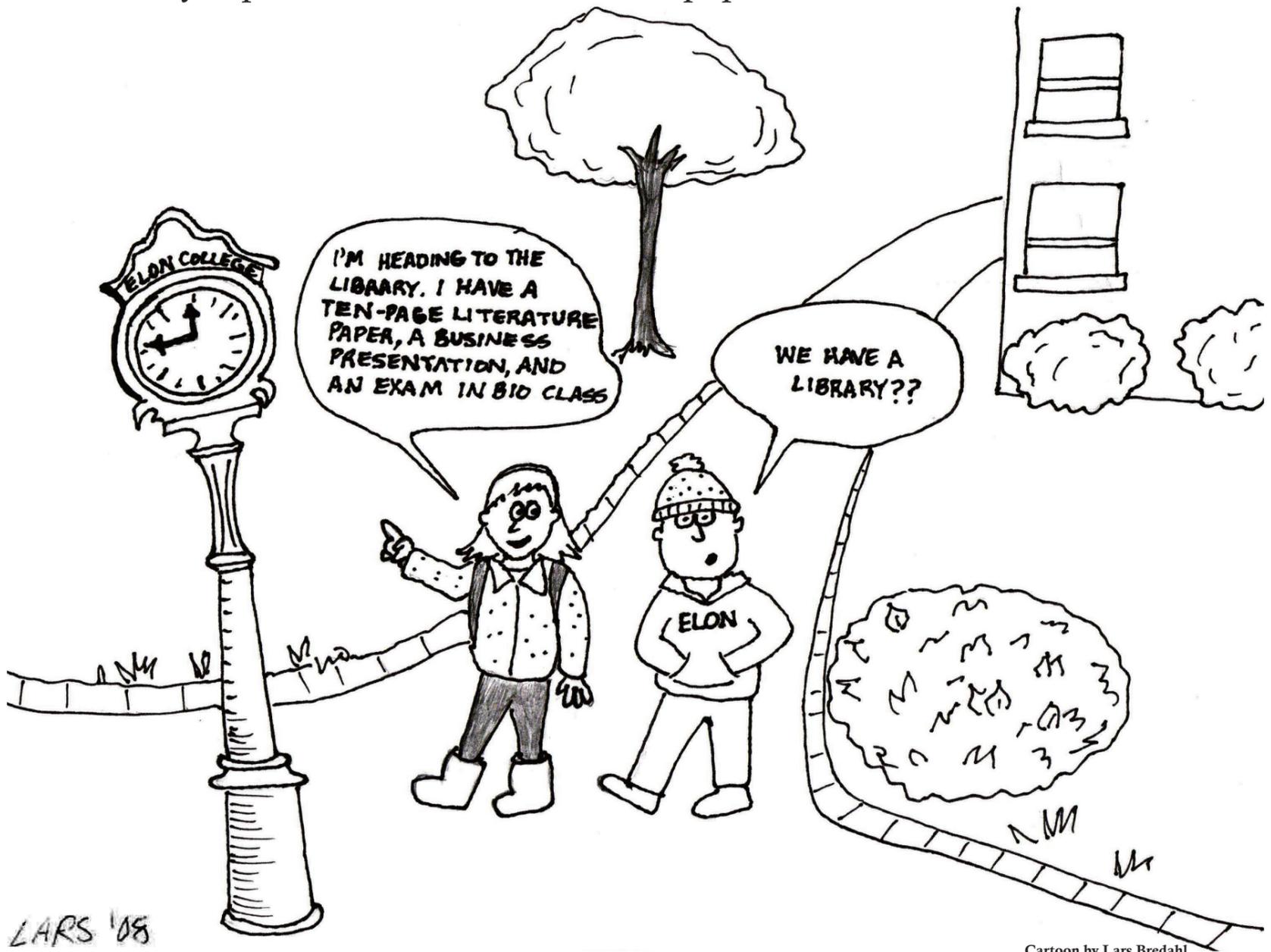
Does responsibility for these inexcusable acts of violence need to rest on the shoulders of all Christians because of this individual's actions? After all, Rudolph was an extremist, analogous to those who bombed the streets of India. Still, there are no studies that show more than a third of Americans would agree to require Christians to carry IDs in the interest of national security.

It is easy for the uninformed and ignorant to blame a group that looks and acts differently than the accepted norm. A scapegoat is comforting for those who insist on boorishly making false and iniquitous generalizations and classifications.

Societies all over the world need to mourn those who died in India, blame those responsible for the carnage and refuse to persecute innocent religious affiliates under a blanket of Muslim prejudice.

ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES:

Belk Library experiences its annual boom in population



Cartoon by Lars Bredahl

THE PENDULUM Established 1974

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

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Opinions

U.S. Intelligence Council predictions should not be overlooked



Morgan Little
Columnist

The U.S. National Intelligence Council dusted off its crystal balls and yellowed Sci-Fi novels earlier this month to put together the latest installment of its government-funded fortune telling.

The report, titled "Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World," is a startling combination of gloom and self-realization. It is a sobering look at what the future holds for America, free from the blinders of nationalism.

Whereas the previous report, "Mapping the Global Future: Report of the Intelligence Council's 2020 Project" predicted continued American dominance in the face of rising powers, the sentiment of "Global Trends 2025" quickly takes a different turn.

"Although the United States is likely to remain the single most powerful actor, the United States' relative strength — even in the military realm — will decline and U.S. leverage will become more constrained," the report states. From there a radically different world is created.

The majority of the report is focused on India and China, which are predicted to grow to the point at which the United States is marginalized and global power is shifted to the East.

The growth of democracies? Gone. China will become the ideal governmental model with its mix of a dictatorial political culture and capitalist economy. Russia, buoyed by the demand for its natural resources, is predicted to rise above its poorly diversified economy and aging population to once again become a large player on the international stage.

India and Brazil will be the two shining beacons for democracy, though Brazil will remain a regional power and India's proximity to the Middle East might lead to it being bogged down in the squabbles of the Gulf states.

Some of the content is a bit ridiculous, such as the Presidential Diary Entry from 2020, which details the after-effects of a tidal wave in Manhattan that badly damages Wall Street, but this is a report that needs to be taken seriously. This is not the result of a nut in some basement writing dystopian fiction. This is a government report that could very well come true.

It should serve to stem the expectations of many Americans who see the rise of President-elect Barack Obama as a signal for a rejuvenated country and to quell the sulking of those predicting the onset of a new Cold War.

Will the country become a wasteland if Americans don't lash out at the ex-Communist powers? Of course not, and neither will one president be able to readjust the world based upon American ideologies.

The way in which America can slow its decline

from superpower to great power is through counter-balance diplomacy. Russia in particular is trying to goad the United States into using hard diplomacy in reaction to its declarations of nuclear support for Iran and Venezuela. Using scare tactics is no longer an effective means for the United States to get its way. It only serves to irritate the global community, and besides, America can't back it up.

Instead, the United States needs to encourage growth in countries such as Brazil and India, where democratic ideals are flourishing. The new administration should spend energy dispelling the socialist leanings of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, since it would do a great deal to re-stabilize South America. In the wake of the Mumbai siege, now is a better time than ever to strengthen ties with India as it faces the benefits and terrors of becoming a world power.

There's no point in engaging in superpower politics anymore, militarily or economically. America lacks the prestige to bend well-established nations to its will.

What Obama and future presidents must do is take the future established by the National Intelligence Council to heart and accept that much of the world is catching up.

Only by furthering ties to nations that the United States has otherwise left mostly in the lurch can American influence hope to succeed to the Council's report in the year 2025.

Elon community would benefit from bike-sharing program

Cameron Swallen
Guest Columnist

Public transportation is considered a solution to problems faced in the 20th century regarding city planning, environmental responsibility and population growth. Elon's administration has expanded public transportation in the community as well by extending BioBus coverage. But, there is only so much that a bus system can provide.

Such a system, like most public transportation, is limited by funding, where buses can stop and how often they can make stops. At some places off campus, students can face a 20-minute wait for a 15-minute walk. Certainly, for these students, the BioBus system is not adequate.

These students end up driving to campus with commuter stickers or walk to campus. Driving increases tension in an already less than adequate parking situation on campus. Walking is the best available option, although it is not time efficient.

Bike-sharing allows users to customize their transportation to their needs, eliminating the problems experienced by bus-riders. It also frees

up parking while promoting environmental responsibility.

Elon does have a bike-renting program sponsored through Campus Recreation. In order to get a bike, you have to sign up to rent one for a semester or an entire year. This system only meets the needs of those who wish to rent a bike for the whole semester, just for their use. Campus Rec has roughly 30 bikes available for rent. While the program is a good one, it does not meet the transportation needs of the student body at large.

Bike-sharing programs have had problems. Elon ended its bike-sharing program after repeated theft and vandalism more than five years ago. Similar problems have been experienced in both the collegiate and urban sectors. Technology has allowed these problems to be overcome in Europe over the past decade and most recently in Washington, D.C.

Instead of having an open system of sharing and returning, customers of Smartbike must swipe a card to unlock a bicycle at any docking station, allowing a means for controlling access and decreasing theft. Users must return the bicycle to

any Smartbike station within 30 minutes, allowing for ample travel time. This limits the threat of theft or vandalism among registered users.

Stations are set up at systematic points around a community that would best meet the needs of its riders. College campuses are a natural fit for a bike-sharing program: A large population needs to travel within a reasonable bicycling distance where driving or riding a bus is not a feasible option.

If Elon administrators and the surrounding community were to contract such a program to a company like Smartbike, students would be able to move more quickly in and around campus with a simple swipe of their Phoenix card at their own convenience. Students need to drive cars would be reduced, while parking on campus would be more readily available.

The university's ongoing efforts to promote a more sustainable environment would be furthered while attracting prospective students with cutting-edge, 21st century innovation. If and when implementation is feasible, the university should do everything in its power to bring a new bike-sharing program to Elon.

Civil rights movement is not close to being over

The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy needs to be repealed to ensure equality



Derek Kiszely
Columnist

America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. But just how "free" and "brave" are Americans?

American society has made "different" synonymous with "dangerous," where people are afraid that their "family values"

are threatened by those who fall in love with a person of the same sex.

In American society, people of a "different" sexual orientation are not free to openly express their individuality without fear of persecution or prosecution. Is this really the American way?

If Americans are so free, then why do homosexuals in the armed forces have to hide their true identity in order to fight for that falsehood of freedom?

If Americans are so brave, then why are there those who fear what would happen if a faulty status quo changed?

In 1992, while campaigning for the presidency, Bill Clinton promised to allow all citizens — regardless of sexual orientation — to serve openly in the military, a departure from the then complete ban on those who were not

heterosexual.

But former Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn fought hard against Clinton's progressive push to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military, and the resultant compromise — called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" — was signed into law in 1993.

Since 1993, nearly 12,000 soldiers have been forced out of the armed services under the policy, because under the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, homosexuals can only serve as long as they keep their sexual orientation hidden.

The Pentagon's principal justification for the policy continues to be that the presence of openly gay and lesbian personnel would "interfere with the military's ability to accomplish its mission."

It shouldn't come as much of a surprise that Pentagon officials feel this way, seeing as the Pentagon listed homosexuality alongside mental retardation and personality disorders up until 2006.

The Pentagon thought being gay was a mental illness, even though the American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973, after the mental health community recognized that such a classification was a mistake. Being gay isn't a "defect" and it certainly isn't a mental illness.

Just like people have different skin colors, they have different sexual orientations. We should appreciate the beauty of individuality in each and every person, regardless of their skin color or sexual orientation.

During the Civil War, black people who wanted to serve in the U.S. military were segregated into units known as the U.S. Colored Troops, under the command of white officers. How absurd would it be if all blacks today had to paint themselves white just to serve in the armed forces?

By forcing homosexuals to "stay in the closet" in order to serve alongside heterosexuals, the Pentagon is doing something just as preposterous.

Thankfully, blacks today can serve unabashed and unashamed of the color of their skin. But why can't people of a different sexual orientation have the same right?

It wasn't until President Truman's Executive Order 9981, which ordered the integration of armed forces in 1941, that blacks and whites were allowed to serve side by side — a major advance in civil rights.

Now, during Obama's administration, hopefully America will see another executive order that will repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Most commanders couldn't care less about sexual orientation because they recognize their lesbian and gay

troops are instrumental in the work of defending our country. The British and Israeli militaries and 15 other NATO countries already allow homosexuals to serve openly, and it certainly hasn't hurt their effectiveness.

After all, as Barry Goldwater said, "You shouldn't have to be straight to be in the military, you just have to be able to shoot straight."

National security interests are best served by repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" not just because the presence of gay people in the military is unlikely to undermine the ability to fight and win, but because it is cruel and unpatriotic.

According to a report filed by 28 retired generals and admirals that urged Congress to repeal the policy, there are over 65,000 gay men and women currently serving in the armed forces, and more than 1 million gay veterans.

How many gay soldiers have died in the line of duty, just so that Americans back home in the "land of the free" and the "home of the brave" have the right to bash them?

These aren't "gay rights." They are fundamental human rights. And until gay people are allowed to serve openly in the U.S. armed forces and get married, the so-called "civil rights movement" in America is far from over.

Light floods through the windows of the Maynard House sun room. President Leo M. Lambert sits with Jim and Joie Maynard to reminisce about their family's home and its meaning to Elon University, the presidents and their families.

Located at 2423 Pineway Drive on the 10th hole of Alamance Country Club golf course is a nearly 50-year-old Georgian style home.

Many students best know the Maynard House as a place to meet and greet the Lamberts at Christmas-time. But beyond getting that ever-desired photograph with Leo and Laurie Lambert, students may not realize the rug they cross in the foyer upon entry has been crossed by John Glenn, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the late Benazir Bhutto and other distinguished visitors to Elon University. They also may not realize that it's the same home where the Lamberts' daughters spent a good deal of their childhoods.

The Maynard House will remain a cherished gift to the university, and will continue to hold significant historic importance.

INSIDE



The Maynard family legacy



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Reid Atwater Maynard, hosiery manufacturing giant in Burlington, originally purchased and moved into the Maynard House in 1957, after it was constructed two years earlier.

In 1919, Reid Atwater Maynard came to Burlington after being discharged from the Army following World War I. He had an interest in banking, but decided to turn his interests in a different direction — a decision that would lead him to become one of the county's top manufacturing giants.

Maynard assisted his father-in-law, J.E. Moore, in organizing and running Grace Hosiery Mills, Inc. in the 1920s. This small start opened the door for Maynard's interests to grow and rapidly expand.

He was named the county's "dean of hosiery manufacturers" by The Daily Times-News, Burlington's newspaper, in 1968, after organizing four additional hosiery mills and helping to expand other firms in the area. When he started in the manufacturing industry, cotton and rayon were the only materials, but Maynard's mills made a lot of progress, making use of silk from Japan and adding color

to the dyeing process.

While Maynard was recognized first and foremost for his work in hosiery manufacturing, his interests were far from narrow. He was well known for his community service efforts — serving as a leader in raising funds for the YMCA, as well as his positions on the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees, the American Legion and the Alamance County Hospital, among other numerous endeavors.

Maynard and his wife, Grace Moore, moved into their home in 1957, the house now known by the Elon University community as "The Maynard House."

President Leo Lambert praised the home, calling it a "beautiful and gracious residence," and an "important resource to the Office of the President and the entire university."

Following Maynard's death in 1983, his son, Jim, was instrumental in placing the home in the hands of the university, under President Fred Young. Jim is currently on Elon's Board of Trustees.

"Jim has been a faithful, wise and generous trustee," Lambert said. "I have enjoyed working closely with him on advancing Elon University."

Jim's son, John, is now a member of the Love School Board of Advisers. The Maynard family continues its legacy at Elon, and the university will eternally appreciate their gift of the Maynard House.

"The [gift of] the house will prove in the long run to be among the most historical and important ever received by Elon," Lambert said. "It has been a privilege for me and my family to live in such a wonderful house."



View the full story, a walking tour with President Leo Lambert and additional video footage with the Maynard family in a multimedia presentation at our Web site, www.elon.edu/pendulum.

History

Jim Maynard's father bought the land where the Maynard House now sits after WWII with the hopes of someday building a home on it. His father, Reid Maynard, built the home in 1955-56 and moved into the house soon after.

Jim and Joie were married in 1959 and "spent the first few months of married life in the back bedroom," Jim said with a hearty smile. "So when people ask did I grow up here, I like to say, 'Maybe not in a period of time, but I learned a lot while I was here.'"

After his father died in 1983, Jim was approached by Fred Young — who was then president of Elon College — and asked if he would replace his father on the Board of Trustees at Elon. Jim willingly agreed.

Before his mother died in 1988, Jim spoke to her about the possibility of giving their home to the college.

"And in talking with Fred, he said that would be a very generous thing to do and the college would be forever grateful," Jim said. "And Fred, as Leo, can sure make you feel good."

Before the Youngs moved in, the house underwent a complete renovation that has lasted for 20 years. The second floor was reserved for family living space and the first floor was used for university functions. Since then the Lamberts have made minor touch-ups, repainting some rooms and recovering some furniture because of the hard use the house endures.

"Holland House, which was the president's residence prior to Maynard House, is going to be moved next summer very carefully and very respectfully over to South Campus and is going to be turned into an alumni center," Lambert said. "So in the great span of history, I think you see houses change purposes, but I can't imagine for a very long time that this will be anything else but the president's home of Elon University."

A working house

When Lambert works on campus for a more-than-full day, he returns home to more work: hosting receptions, holding meetings and entertaining guests. But Lambert said leaving campus to come home to more work is not that hard for him.

"We enjoy entertaining, first of all, and we enjoy having people in the house," he said. "And because the staff is so great, it does make it almost effortless. We will sometimes go to bed after a big dinner party here and we will come down and the kitchen will be immaculate and ready for us to make breakfast the next morning, and the furniture is back in place. And so, that makes it very easy."

Laurie Lambert carries out the family's daily tasks such as cooking and laundry. The only time the Lamberts have a meal that is not prepared by Laurie is when they're entertaining, in which case ARAMARK prepares meals on campus and trucks them in. The home's kitchen is then used for light cooking such as finishing a sauce, for preparation and staging.

It takes two nearly full-time people to manage the house and the hundreds of events held there each year. Angel Smith spends most of her time as a housekeeper for the Maynard House, and the rest of her assignment is on campus. Jimmy Graves, logistics support technician, is in charge of house maintenance inside and outside, and set-up and take-down for entertaining.

"You might say, 'well, that's an expense,' but I'm often struck with how much people appreciate receiving an invitation to the president's home, how much students love coming for the

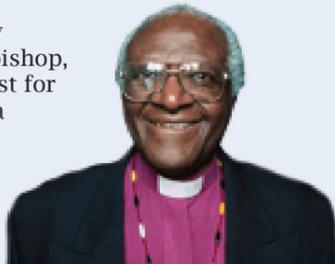
Guests of the Maynard House

A Bowl of Rum Raisin

Tutu came to Elon in April when rum raisin ice cream, his favorite, was out of season. Lambert said they called Smitty's Ice Cream and asked them to make a special batch of rum raisin ice cream for Tutu. When he arrived at the Maynard House one evening, Lambert offered him some of the Christmas ice cream.

"And [Tutu] said, 'Oh, no thank you. I really wouldn't care for any.' And I said, 'Well, archbishop, we have a lot of rum raisin ice cream made just for you,' and he said, 'Well, in that case, I'll have a small bowl.'"

Archbishop Desmond Tutu (2003)



A Quick Live Shot

When David Gergen, chair of the law school board of advisers, came over one night as a guest of honor at a dinner party, he had to leave briefly to shoot a satellite interview for CNN in the TV studios in McEwen.

Back at the Maynard House, the Lamberts, Maynards and other guests got up from the dinner table, went to the library, turned on the TV and watched Gergen's interview. When it was over, Gergen came back from campus to join everyone for dessert.

David Gergen (2004)





House Highlights

The lamppost

While the signpost to the left remains in front of the house, some front-yard landmarks have been moved elsewhere.

When Elon took possession of the house, the Maynards asked Young if they could have the lamppost that was in front of the house. It now stands in front of their home in Burlington. After his mother's death in 1988, Jim also asked for two of the English boxwoods from the front of the house to plant at the Pine Hill Cemetery near their family's plot. The plants are still healthy and thriving today.



Sunroom



The sunroom can accommodate 45 to 50 people comfortably for dinner, and the furniture is very light and portable so it can easily be moved into the garage after such functions. One of the house staff makes the furniture change several times a week, and Lambert likens it to living in a TV studio with all the swift set-ups and take-downs.

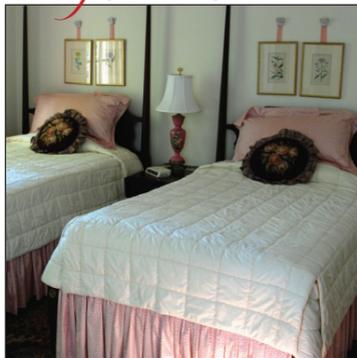
Library



This room is President Lambert's favorite room in the Maynard House. The library's dark paneling, bookshelves, desk and wood burning fireplace, especially in the fall and winter months, make the room especially appealing to Lambert. The upstairs sunroom is also one of his favorites, especially after setting up the family Christmas tree there.

Many Elon students recall getting their holiday photos taken with Lambert in this room, during the annual holiday student tea.

Guest suite



When the Lambert's house university guests, they stay in the guest suite. Sandra Day O'Connor, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and John Glenn are just some of the guests who have stayed in this room during their visits to Elon.

When Queen Noor of Jordan visited Elon, the Lamberts moved out of the house so that they could accommodate her security staff, lady-in-waiting and other assistants. Lambert said it was unlikely they wouldn't do it again because one cannot entertain or help guests without being present.

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House facilities and features

- 7,300 square feet
- Overlooks 10th hole of the Alamance Country Club
- Six bedrooms
- Seven baths
- Alarm system
- Five telephone lines
- Backup power generator

**President and Mrs.
Leo M. Lambert**
 invite you to join them
 for a
Holiday Reception
 Tuesday, December 9
 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Maynard House
 Inquiries: 278.7200
 Dressy casual
 Shuttle service will be provided
 from the Moseley parking lot.

Christmas party," Lambert said. "An invitation here is a special thing and events here are usually very special events that people look forward to, so I think it's very much worth it in terms of the effort that it goes to maintain a residential home like Maynard House."

Jim thinks of the Maynard House in terms of his parents. When he introduces himself at a function with Elon students, it's fun for him to see a bell ring in students' minds as they register his last name and connect him with the president's home. The Maynards said they visit the house every chance they get.

"Every time we're invited and even times when we aren't," Jim said. "We love coming here to a reception or a meeting or a luncheon or something. We thoroughly enjoy it."

Giving to the university is something that brings great joy to the Maynards, and the reason for giving is clear.

"We believe in the university," Joie said. "We think it is a tremendous asset to the whole area. It has been a joy and a pleasure to see it grow and to prosper. And to gain so much national recognition that it has, it's just been a tremendous accomplishment that has come to this area and we just love it. We just love seeing it grow."

Jim added that he thoroughly enjoys being associated with young people on the campus.

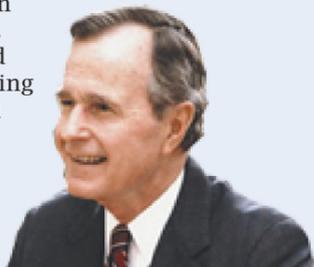
"The icing is to mingle with the students and have conversation with them, it's just something that will keep you young if you just give it a chance," he said. "I enjoy that."

A Presidential Delivery

President George H.W. Bush spent two nights in the Maynard House, a highlight of all the many guests who have stayed there, Lambert said.

"I remember the house was surrounded by secret service agents and police and sheriff departments," Lambert said, "and President Bush was upstairs in the family room in his bathrobe. Callie and Molly brought him the newspaper and thought, 'Well that's pretty cool to, you know, bring the president the newspaper in the morning and have him sitting where you sit and watch TV.'"

President George H. W. Bush (2001)



A Nice Set of Sheets

When Margaret Thatcher spent several days in the home, Jim was wondering what his mother would think if she knew Margaret Thatcher was sleeping in her bed.

"I remember one thing," Joie added. "Margaret Thatcher had a particular request of a particular kind of bed sheet that had to be shipped in. And that was something, I think, 700-thread count or something like that. I never knew such a thing existed!"

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (1995)



Style

Guys or girls, fans or newbies: Everyone digs 'Twilight'

Stephenie Meyer's best-selling "Twilight" series is typically thought of as teenage girl fare. But after the screen adaptation grossed \$70 million in its opening weekend and crossed the \$100 million mark in its eighth day of release, it is clear "Twilight" is becoming something much bigger. Below, critics of both genders offer their takes on pop culture's latest phenomenon.

She said: ★★★★★

Amanda Kennison
Reviewer



Amanda Kennison

Millions have been swept away by author Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series. So, when word came out that the first novel would be adapted for the screen, equal shrills of excitement and disgust were sent into the stratosphere. The question on all "Twihard"

fans' minds was: How badly will the filmmakers screw this up?

The answer: not much.

Some of the more die-hard fans probably did find more than a couple inadequacies in the film. Most notably the famed meadow scene, the place where "Twilight" began, just wasn't there. Sure the film's director, Catherine Hardwicke, and screenwriter, Melissa Rosenberg, included a similar scene that served basically the same purpose, but it simply didn't compare.

For all its minor indiscretions, the movie may be forgiven. Many book-to-film adaptations fall miserably on their faces. This film did an undeniably amazing job of condensing 500 vital pages into a two-hour film. What makes the books so appealing is the intense, impossibly dangerous love story of Edward and Bella. The movie captures that emotional plot focus and turns it into a touching, surprisingly action-packed visual drug.

Months before the film made it to the big screen, people were full of incredulity. The main concern: How could the film produce genuine looking vampires? Inhuman strength and beauty, impossible speed and strength aren't exactly simple to show. Honestly, it's in the special effects department that most of the film's faults can be attributed.

But don't begrudge the filmmakers too much. Considering the small production budget, they maximized their purchasing power. At the very least, none of the effects were cringe-worthy. Plus, the fight scene at the end makes up for all the rest.

As a whole, the "Twilight" cast has fantastic chemistry, and the actors succeeded in staying true to their literary characters.

Filmmakers took some creative liberties that actually made the story better. Little bursts of comedy, like Charlie (Billy Burke) cleaning his gun or Mike (Michael Welch) doing his oh-so-attractive dance in front of the diner, reminds viewers that "Twilight" isn't just a Romeo-and-Juliet-esque tragedy. After all, the story does follow a regular teenage girl and a not-so-regular teenage vampire. The movie version did a better job of presenting the modern high school environment in its true ridiculous, catty, carefree splendor.



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Burke proved to be the surprise star of this film. He breathes a refreshing burst of life into the character of Bella's father, making him equally funny and endearing. Another notable surprise was Jackson Rathbone's Jasper. Reminiscent of Edward Scissorhands in his look, Rathbone made a silent, creepy character look good.

As Bella Swan, Kristen Stewart gave a better than fair performance. She was more angsty and forward than expected, but given the actress' background it's understandable. But when Stewart was working with Robert Pattinson's Edward, there was

a special spark. Their performance was as close to the fantastic true love of Edward and Bella as anyone could pull off.

For all the horrible backlash Pattinson received for snagging the part of beloved Edward, he did an absolutely fantastic job. The only point of criticism against British-born Pattinson is his slightly inconsistent accent.

"Twilight" proved unexpectedly good. In this case "a vampire love saga" isn't as corny as it sounds. And if you find that you don't like it, just go see it again. It's actually better the second time around.

He said: ★★★★★

Adam Constantine
Film Critic



Adam Constantine

OK, OK, it does sound like it will be miserable. A teenage girl falls in love with a vampire? Well, to all the hesitant gentlemen out there, this is not as bad as it seems.

"Twilight," based on the New York Times best-selling novel written by Stephenie Meyer, hit theaters with

almost as much impact as the book hit shelves. The movie is an excellent representation of the novel, which will play better for the book fans in the long run.

Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) has just moved from sunny Phoenix to small, rainy Forks, Wash. with her father. She enrolls in a new school with people who are very different from the ones in the big city where she grew up.

It isn't until she meets the Cullen family that she realizes just how different the people of Forks really are. The moment she sets her sights on Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), her life is changed forever.

At this point, it sounds like "Twilight" is going to be a mushy, lovey-dovey, romantic story, but give it a chance. It's not. Edward is more than just your average teenager in high school. He is a vampire, a very lethal vampire, who happens to want to kill Bella more than he's ever wanted to kill anyone. But he also is madly in love with her. He must overcome the way he feels about Bella or risk exposing himself and his family.

The film follows the intertwined and complicated lives of Edward and Bella, who not only have to deal with each other, but other dangers that become more and more deadly with each passing day they face together.

Anytime a book is turned into a film there is always a chance that it will be a bust. While anyone who has read the books will say there was still much more that could have been done, the movie was one of the best representations that could have come from this 500-plus page novel.

Stewart and Pattinson do an excellent job of sticking to the characters that are superbly written in the novel. There are some things that could have been done better. For example, the effect of Edward shining in the sun was quite weak. But overall, the film stuck to the novel and brought it to life in excellent fashion.

"Twilight" has all the makings of a good movie even though it is based on a teenage romance novel. Action, suspense and comedy are all written into the script and can be enjoyed by anyone who comes to watch. If a guy's girlfriend really wants to go see it, the guy should go too. If anything, it is definitely worth the brownie points.

Simple tips to save money and look good during the economic crisis

Alexandra Johnston
Reporter

The Dow is down and America is in an economic slump. Now is the time to make the shift from being fashionistas to recessionistas.

As college students, first impressions can be everything, but our pockets can be a few dollars shy of being able to buy off-the-runway looks. But recreating these looks can be simple and enjoyable after following a few short tips.

Create a look book. A look book is a collection of designs that inspire or speak to you. One helpful resource is Style.com, run by Vogue Magazine. It provides photos and videos from fashion week in New York, Milan, Paris and London. You can search by designer, season and style to find a selection of looks to mimic.

Style.com provides an electronic look book function that allows you to select favorites and store them on the Web.

Another way to create a look book is by taking a blank journal or notebook and pasting pictures from magazines and advertisements. This option provides a more concrete creation that you can even take on shopping trips. Fill your look book with ideas for the season and then use it as the basis for your designer recreations.

Take your time. One of the best ways to shop for less is to take your time. Rather than picking one trendy store from which to buy all your looks, take the time to shop in a variety of places. Be sure to look for trendier items at places that sell for less, such

as Target, Forever 21 or H&M. These retailers often work with famous designers to create garments that provide affordable style. Shopping around ensures that you'll get the best price and keeps you from looking like a carbon copy of an in-store mannequin.

Shop off-season. Fall fashion week is in the spring, while spring fashion week is in the fall. If you are educated on what is in for spring, go ahead and start looking in the fall. This allows you to take time to find which looks work for you and hit the off-season sales.

Work with what you own. A very easy way to get the look for less is to work with pieces you already own. Trends often carry over from year to year, or are updated only slightly, allowing you to purchase less.

Invest in classics. The little black dress, the cinched-waist trench coat and the classic white blouse: Some things never go out of style. These essentials have held up against the test of time and will continue to appear on the runways every year. Investing in fashion staples will add to your wardrobe and allow you to mix the basics with trendier items to match the season.

Shop second-hand. Don't be afraid of second-hand clothing. Not only is it a great buy, but with the ever-growing environmental crisis, cutting back on our consumption is about as fashionable as it gets. Second-hand shops, such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army Family Store, are great places to find items that can be spruced up with accessories or altered to fit the style.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.STYLE.COM

Be yourself. No matter what the runways dictate this winter, never compromise yourself for a look. Make sure to get the proper fit on each garment and strive to create your own take on the look. Not every trend looks good on everyone, so play to your strengths.

Until the economy begins looking up, embrace your inner recessionista and learn to shop for less.

Seniors take the stage in 'A Chorus Line'

Bonnie Efird
Reporter

It's a powerful metaphor of all human ambition and competition, and one of the longest running shows in Broadway history: Michael Bennett's "A Chorus Line" is a celebration of the American musical.

Twenty of Elon's senior music theatre majors will take on the lives of young and ambitious struggling actors in the show. They will allow the audience to catch a glimpse of the performers' world as they audition for a new Broadway musical, directed by the main character, Zach, played by Matthew Masten.

"It is a very layered and complex show that appears deceptively simple — a wonderful challenge for the seniors as their capstone project," said Lynne Formato, assistant professor of dance and the director of Elon's rendition of "A Chorus Line."

BFA music theatre major Steven Baker will be choreographing and co-directing with Formato, while Dan Gibson, also a senior music theatre major, will be the music director.

Not only is "A Chorus Line" a chance for the seniors to showcase their hard-earned talent, but according to Formato it has also provided the basis for the current system of developing new musicals. This ensemble cast show has been called highly entertaining by critics and has truly become a Broadway classic.

The most famous songs from "A Chorus Line" include "At the Ballet" and "What I Did For Love," which are surrounded by both humorous and poignant monologues and personal histories as Zach interviews each of the performers during the audition. This provides the audience with a wide array of emotions, all strung together by a common thread: the drive and pursuit of achieving one's dreams.

By the end of the show, the audience feels so connected to each of the characters as their histories are poured out through both song and monologues, that the audience begins to empathize with the characters.

What makes "A Chorus Line" different from other similar musicals is its complete truth and its illustration of the "reality" of living day by day as a struggling actor, underpaid, overworked and underappreciated. But it also depicts the more glamorous side of theater at the end of the play, when the final eight cast members are chosen to be in the chorus line of the new production.

Ultimately, "A Chorus Line" is a must-see production for the audience and a must-do production for any aspiring actor.

"This show is life-changing and ultimately a satisfying journey," Formato said. "It's a metaphor for anyone who is willing to put themselves on the line and take a risk to live the life they desire, and not to judge success in life by the standards of others or monetary wealth."

This may be the last time this talented group of Elon seniors will be performing for such cheap ticket prices, so all students are encouraged to take advantage before these performers go professional.

"A Chorus Line" will be performed Dec. 7-9 at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. each night in the Black Box theatre. Tickets are available at the box office in the Center for the Arts.

MUSIC REVIEW ★★☆☆

Little Joy delivers ample pleasures

Sophie Duensing
Reviewer

It's been a while since fans have heard new music from The Strokes. Its members are currently pursuing a wide range of interests: From front-man Julian Casablancas opening a barbecue-style restaurant in Los Angeles to drummer Fabrizio Moretti spending time in the recording studio. Moretti's newest project, Little Joy, released its self-titled debut album in November.

Little Joy is composed of Moretti, his girlfriend Binki Shapiro, producer Noah Georgeson and Rodrigo Amarante of Los Hermanos, an indie rock band from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The group originally got together at a music festival in Portugal, although it developed its sound in Los Angeles.

The name comes from a local cocktail lounge the band members frequent in Los Angeles' Echo Park. Although Moretti credits Shapiro for the name and expressed original hesitations, it is a splendid description of their sound. While the Strokes are pure New York, Little Joy's happy-go-lucky melodies resonate California.

Subtle doo-wop harmonies are laced throughout several tracks, most notably on "The Next Time Around." Reggae beats pulse through "No One's Better Sake," the album's most memorable track. Shapiro's shy vocals blend into a harmonized chorus on "Please Don't Watch Me Dancing," one of several tracks nostalgic of surf-rock.

Little Joy sounds like a more lighthearted version of The Strokes' garage-band style. Island rhythms and 1950s pop beats sway through the album, setting a lazy, easygoing mood and conjuring images of sunsets on the beach and tropical



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SPIN.COM

drinks with umbrellas.

When asked if Little Joy was a side project in an interview with Entertainment Weekly in August, Moretti said, "I don't know. I have all my heart and love in it right now — this is my band."

But Strokes fans don't have to worry, the band plans to reunite around February to put together its ideas for the next album.

For the moment, as temperatures drop and darkness creeps outside, Little Joy delivers the perfect carefree soundtrack to escape winter blues. Each of Little Joy's band members have had separate successful careers.

Nobody's paycheck is dependent on the success or failure of this album. Composed of four friends with nothing to lose, one can feel the members feeding off each other's vibes, just having fun with their musical talents.

Truly a product of its environment, the album's laid back and unassuming nature is a reflection of the joy that went into its creation. Its simplicity could cause some to overlook its artistic value. While it does move a bit slow at times, the overall result is a beautiful compilation of charming, joyful tracks.

Little Joy's modest, pleasant mood is a blissful meditation of simple pleasures, shared by Moretti with his girlfriend and accompanied by his friends.

While other Strokes members are chasing business dreams outside the musical world, it appears the time apart from The Strokes for Moretti has been a period of relaxation, allowing him to experience the real little joys in life, which is wholeheartedly expressed through this album.

Hark! Holiday cheer!

It's that time of year again. Christmas is just around the corner, and Burlington and Greensboro are already preparing for a number of events to celebrate the holiday season. If students need to take a break from studying and experience a little holiday cheer, these are a few of the best bets for some local celebration.

Events in Elon and Burlington

Festival of Holiday Lights

What: Elon's annual celebration with luminaries, hot chocolate, carol singing, the lighting of the campus and other activities
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4
Where: Scott Plaza, by Fonville Fountain outside Alamance
Admission: Free
Information: Elon's cultural calendar

Messiah: A Soulful Celebration
What: A concert featuring jazz and gospel arrangements of Handel's "Messiah" by élan, Elon's vocal jazz ensemble
When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4
Where: McCrary Theatre
Admission: Free
Information: Elon's cultural calendar

Holiday Magic Downtown
What: The lighting of Burlington's Christmas tree, musical entertainment, train rides, an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus and other activities
When: 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5
Where: Downtown Burlington
Admission: Free, small charge for concessions and some activities
Information: (336) 222-5001

Celebration of Light
What: A concert of a cappella works, narration from the works of T.S. Eliot, holiday decorations and a candlelight processional from Camerata, Elon's choral ensemble
When: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8
Where: McCrary Theatre
Admission: Free
Information: Elon's cultural calendar

Greensboro Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops
What: A concert of holiday favorites to benefit the Alamance County Salvation Army
When: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21
Where: Koury Athletic Center
Admission: Non-perishable foods
Information: Elon's cultural calendar

Christmas in the Park
What: Christmas entertainment, amusement park rides, a live nativity scene, hayrides and refreshments
When: 6-9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 22-23
Where: Burlington City Park
Admission: Free
Information: (336) 222-5030

Events in Greensboro

A Christmas Carol
What: A stage version of the Charles Dickens classic about Ebenezer Scrooge and his visit with the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future
When: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19
Where: The Carolina Theatre, 310 S. Greene St.
Admission: \$22.50-\$26.50
Information: (336) 333-2605

Greensboro Jaycees Holiday Parade
What: An annual holiday parade featuring marching bands, balloons and floats
When: Noon, Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Parade begins at Greene and Lindsay Streets in downtown Greensboro
Admission: Free
Information: (336) 379-1570

Festival of Lights
What: A community Christmas Tree Lighting, carols and other holiday activities
When: 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5
Where: Downtown Greensboro
Admission: Free
Information: (336) 274-4595

The Nutcracker
What: The Greensboro Ballet's performance of Tchaikovsky's Christmas tale
When: 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 and 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21
Where: War Memorial Auditorium, 1921 W. Lee St.
Admission: \$10-\$35
Information: (336) 373-7400

Department of Music kicks off winter season with two concerts from élan and Camerata

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

The Festival of Holiday Lights might typically be thought of as Elon's holiday kick-off, but this year the department of music will spread holiday cheer the musical way with two performances. "Messiah: A Soulful Celebration" features gospel and jazz variations of sections of George Frideric Handel's oratorio "Messiah," and "Celebration of Light" features a cappella works from Camerata, Elon's choral ensemble.

Elon's vocal jazz ensemble, élan, will perform in "Messiah: A Soulful Celebration." The show is based on the 1992 album "Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration," which features rhythm and blues, gospel and soul arrangements of Handel's oratorio. The 13 singers in élan will each have a solo and will be accompanied by a rhythm section featuring drums, keyboards, bass and guitar.

"This is an exciting show because it's such a different presentation of how people would normally hear 'Messiah,'" said Stephen Futrell, department of music chair and director of élan. "It goes with the eclectic nature of élan."

Part of the reason "Messiah" was chosen as the show's focus is because 2009 marks 250 years since Handel's death. "Messiah: A Soulful Celebration" will serve as a precursor to a more traditional performance of "Messiah" in the spring.

That performance will have a full orchestra and both Camerata and Chorale, Elon's other choral ensemble, will perform. The show will also feature four guest soloists who will provide master classes. While the full oratorio is three hours long, the spring performance will include about two-thirds of the material.

"It's a year-long celebration of Handel," Futrell said.

"Messiah: A Soulful Celebration" will include 11 songs from the 1992 album, which was produced by Quincy Jones and features Stevie Wonder. The album's version of

the song "Hallelujah" was published as a choral piece, and Futrell heard high school choirs perform it. Impressed by the music, Futrell began transcribing the other songs.

Futrell meets with élan as a class Tuesdays and Thursdays, and they have been working to perfect the funky sounds of "Messiah: A Soulful Celebration" since the beginning of the school year.

"élan is really the only place that gets into commercial pop-jazz-rock style," Futrell said. "It emphasizes how to take fundamental vocal technique and apply it to pop style."

A few days after élan's "Messiah: A Soulful Celebration," the more traditional Camerata will take the stage. This year marks Camerata's fifth year performing "Celebration of Light," which features all a cappella music.

The show will include contemporary music, choral arrangements from the 15th and 16th centuries, Christmas carols, Hanukkah songs and songs related to winter. Don Grady, associate professor of communications and chair of the School of Communications, will provide narration from the collected works of T.S. Eliot, and Mary Alice Bragg, university organist, will play the organ under the narration and between songs. The show will also feature some excerpts from scripture, holiday decorations, special lighting effects and a candlelight processional.

According to Futrell, who is also the director of Camerata, most students from élan also perform with Camerata.

"As a young musician, you want to try to diversify," Futrell said. "Then you focus on where your passion is."

Futrell said some of the songs in each show are very accessible while others are more provocative. Some should entertain people while others should challenge them.

"I believe the presence of cultural activities in the community contributes to the quality of life," Futrell said. "And we hope that we inspire people."



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.BMI.COM
Elon alumnus and country music songwriter Casey Beathard (right) wrote the lyrics for Rodney Atkins' (left) "Cleaning This Gun."

From Rhode's Stadium to Country Awards ceremonies

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

Casey Beathard, an Elon alumnus who graduated in 1990, has come a long way from his days on the Elon football field. On Nov. 11, he received the 2008 Country Songwriter of the Year Award at the 56th annual Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) Country Awards.

BMI is a performing rights organization that collects licensing fees when its musicians' works are performed and gives them to the artists as royalties. It awarded Beathard the Country Songwriter of the Year Award once before in 2004.

Beathard co-wrote five of the songs on BMI's most-performed list for 2008: Kenny Chesney's "Don't Blink," Billy Ray Cyrus and Miley Cyrus' "Ready, Set, Don't Go," George Strait's "How 'Bout Them Cowgirls," Rodney Atkins' "Cleaning This Gun" and Tracy Lawrence's "Find Out Who Your Friends Are," also featuring Tim McGraw and Chesney. Other award recipients at the Nov. 11 ceremony included Taylor Swift and Hank Williams Jr.

Beathard is best known for his upbeat country songs like Tracy Byrd's "Ten Rounds with Jose Cuervo" and "How'd I Wind Up in Jamaica" and Trace Adkins' "Hot Mama," but he has also written more serious fare like Billy Currington's "Walk a Little Straighter." He has also written Top 20 hits for country music stars Gary Allan and Clay Davidson.

In a profile about him on the BMI Web site, Beathard is quoted as saying, "I try not to over-think it. I don't second-guess myself. When I write something fun, people seem to like it. Mainly, I just write a lot, and every once in a while something gets cut. There's no secret or formula to it."

Before Beathard became a country music songwriting sensation, he was an Elon football star. The son of Bobby Beathard, a former NFL general manager, Beathard played football all four years he was at Elon. Mackey Carden, his football coach, said he remembers Beathard as an excellent football player and student.

"He was all the things you were looking for in a football player," Carden said. "He was a very personable young man."

After graduating from Elon in 1990 with a degree in business management, Beathard moved to Nashville, Tenn., to pursue a career as a country music songwriter. He worked at the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Bluebird Café before being signed to a songwriting contract. His first cut was Chesney's "I Will Stand" in 1998.

He has been writing country music ever since then, including more Top 10 hits for Chesney. He also co-produced Adkins' "I Wanna Feel Something" in 2006, earning him his first record producer credit.

In spite of all his success, Carden said, still remembers Beathard as the young Elon football player with whom no one ever had any problems.

"I'm not surprised at all that he did well," Carden said.

Economic slump pushes students to alter college plans

Harriet Johnson Brackey
Sun Sentinel - MCT

Joe Perri had big college dreams. He wanted to pursue a degree in photography from an arts school. He and his family saved, hunted for scholarships and applied for financial aid, but they eventually realized they simply couldn't find enough help to offset the \$40,000-a-year cost for his first choice schools, the California Institute of the Arts and Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla.

"It was a big bummer, but I understand," said Perri, 18. "You get accepted to this big school, and you get so excited, but then your parents start throwing reality at you. We don't have that much money."

So Perri changed course. He's now a freshman at Broward College, formerly Broward Community College. He plans to spend two years there, saving money that he earns through a photography business he started on the side.

Getting into college is tough enough, but students now have to face a tough economy. About one out of six students have put their search for a college on hold, according to a survey conducted in October by MeritAid, a scholarship Web site. Another 57 percent said they're looking for a less expensive, lesser-known school, just as Perri did.

Here's what they face:

- The most difficult competition ever: A record number of high school seniors are applying to college now.
- Tough new economic hurdles: More restrictive lending requirements, driven by the national credit crunch, has led to a decline in the availability of private student loans. According to Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of FinAid.org, a Web site devoted to financial aid, 37 of 60 private lenders are not offering student loans this year. Federal student loans remain available.

— Savings have taken a hit: The sinking stock market that has slashed college savings accounts for many families and declining home values have also made it difficult for families to borrow against their houses to finance an education.

— Rising costs: Public college costs have doubled in the last decade.

With his own retirement nearing and college costs coming at the same time, Perri's dad says it'd be very difficult to pay big tuition bills without taking on student loans.

"For most parents, with the economy being the way it is, the last thing you want to do is sink yourself into debt," Mike Perri said. "I said 'Joseph, your dream is still there, but sometimes we have to take side roads. The point is, you're going forward.'"

That cherished family and financial goal of sending the kids to college is under serious pressure.

"You can hear about the economy a million times in school, but when it really hits home, the students realize what's needed," said Pam Kirtman, a college advisor at Nova High School in Davie, Fla.. "A college education is very important to them, but they may be losing their houses, their parents are losing their jobs, and even professionals aren't working."

A sign of the crush: A record number of applications were received by the University of Florida last year and a near-record number by Florida State University. Those records may crumble when the current crop of applications is counted. At the University of Central Florida, 8,900 applications have been received from prospective freshman so far, up from 7,200 last year.

The reason? "We wonder if many more students will be staying closer to home," said FSU Director of Admissions Janice Finney, which had two years of near-record applications.

Another possibility is cost. Florida schools are regularly touted as "Best Buys" in education. Not only are in-

state tuition levels comparatively low, but Florida's Bright Futures program makes it possible for students with high grade point averages to earn scholarships.

Community colleges are gaining, too. At Palm Beach Community College, enrollment — 28,600 students currently — is 11 percent higher than last fall. At Broward College, current enrollment is up 6 percent over last year at 33,600. The number of applications from high school students jumped by 20 percent.

For some students, a community college is a good place to beef up skills to increase their marketability in a tough job market, said Grace Truman, director of college relations and marketing at Palm Beach Community College. For others, it's the cost savings that drives them to community colleges. "The real savings is being able to live at home for the first two years," she said.

One issue all schools have to face is private student loans, which have become both essential and very difficult to find because of the credit crisis. Two-thirds of all undergraduates borrow some amount.

"I don't want to do student loans," said Sarah Cochran, a senior at Pembroke Pines Charter High School, echoing the concerns of other students. "All those people are still paying them off while they're paying bills when they're older."

Cochran wanted to go to the University of Central Florida to study hospitality, with the goal of eventually working for Disney. Instead, she said she's going to go to Broward College and hunt for scholarships and financial aid.

The loans that parents take out for students — "Plus Loans" — also are showing signs of distress. Plus Loan denial rates have jumped 26.5 percent over last year, through June.

"It's a contagion effect," Kantrowitz said.

It began with the surge in subprime

Worried high school seniors

High school seniors who say they have done the following due to the financial crisis:

- Considered less prestigious colleges that may be more affordable

57%

- Changed focus from four-year to two-year college

14%

- Decided to get a job while in college

71%

- Increased time spent searching for scholarships

85%

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Source: MeritAid.com online survey sent to 50,000 high school seniors; 2,535 responded Oct. 3-10, 2008

Graphic: Judy Treible

mortgages going into default, he said. Mortgages are bundled into securities and sold to investors. So are student loans.

"The lack of oversight of these irresponsible people has left us with this situation," said Nova High Senior Lauren Barriere, who has decided to go to college in state if she doesn't make it into an Ivy League school. "If it's to pay a total over 120 grand for four years of college just to have a little bit better education, probably it isn't going to be worth it."

Forget a white Christmas ... dream of a green one

Use these tips to tread lightly on the earth during the holiday season

Cynthia Sewell

McClatchy Newspapers - MCT

Have you been dreaming of a green Christmas? With a little bit of effort — maybe much less than you thought — you and your family can enjoy the holiday and help save the planet at the same time.

Holiday Lights

Save money and energy by switching your old strands of incandescent holiday lights with newer LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights, which also are safer.

LED lights use 75 to 90 percent less energy and can last up to ten times longer than traditional holiday lights.

Plus, LEDs stay cool to the touch so they will not burn the tree or a child's fingers.

Wrapping

Between Thanksgiving and New Years, the average American household increases its trash output by 25 percent, resulting in 5 million extra tons of garbage, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Think about Christmas morning. You get done, and you have all these garbage bags full of trash," said Susan Angel, a green events planner from Boise and owner of Angel & Co.

The biggest thing someone can do to green their holiday, Angel said, is to do away with traditional wrapping paper and packaging, which often cannot be recycled.

Angel made the change last year. "I decided, 'OK, no more wrapping paper.' So what do you do when there's no wrapping paper?" Angel said. Get creative.

Last year she made gift bags out of fabric.

"They are so easy to sew — three seams and a hem with a piece a ribbon," she said.

"If you are not real crafty, consider pillow cases tied with a ribbon." Other options include cloth or reusable gift or tote bags or wrapping gifts in usable items like dish towels or scarves. And try old newspapers, magazine pages, paper bags or old maps.

The Sierra Club has estimated that if every family

wrapped three gifts this way, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

Trees

Fake holiday trees are not environmentally friendly. Most are made in China from petroleum-based PVC and are not biodegradable, so they will sit in landfills for decades.

For a "greener" holiday tree consider a live, uncut tree, which can be replanted in your yard after the holidays.

Living Christmas trees can be purchased at some retail lots, choose-and-cut farms and some nurseries and garden centers.

The trees require a little extra attention. They need to acclimate for a couple of days in a garage or enclosed porch before being brought indoors, where they should not remain for more than one week. Then they should be gradually reintroduced to colder outdoor temperatures before being planted.

Fresh-cut Christmas trees from tree farms are a better choice than trees harvested from the wild.

Most fresh-cut Christmas trees now come from tree farms, so deforestation isn't an issue.

Additionally, Christmas tree farms keep large swaths of land from being developed. When the trees grow, they emit oxygen into the air. But they often require pesticides and must be shipped, which consumes fuel.

When a cut holiday tree is past its glory, it can be recycled into mulch.

If you want to recycle your tree, do not use tinsel or spray it with fake snow, as tinsel and white trees cannot be recycled.

Recycle or Reuse Electronic Gadgets

Here's a good rule for when your fancy new Christmas present replaces last year's electronics: If the gadget still works, donate it. If it is broken or antiquated, recycle it. But whatever you do, don't throw it in the trash.

E-waste is a growing environmental and public health concern as the world becomes more wired and companies introduce new products at a faster pace.

Discarded computers, televisions, cell phones, radios, batteries, cameras and other electronic gadgets contain a stew of toxic metals and chemicals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium, brominated flame retardants and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs.

The average cathode ray tube, found in computer



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS.COM

Plastic Christmas trees aren't environmentally friendly, but many tree-huggers feel remorse about cutting down a live tree. A "greener" option is a live, uncut tree that can be replanted after the holiday season.

monitors, televisions and other electronic devices, contains up to 8 pounds of lead, which can leach into the ground and contaminate groundwater.

Old cell phones can be dropped off at Staples office supply stores for recycling.

The CollectiveGood.com takes used cell phones and distributes them to charities worldwide. When you mail your cell phone, PDA or pager to CollectiveGood.com, you get to designate the charity you want to benefit from your tax-deductible donation.

And don't forget the batteries. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well.

Burlington mayor pushes for reform

Laura Smith
Reporter

During the past several months, all eyes were on a Democrat from Illinois and a Republican from Arizona and their race to become America's next president. But what about those political figures who are not envisioning their next office as in the White House?

One such person is Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall, who works hard to maintain a good quality of life for the city's residents.

Wall began his career in local politics in 2005 when he was elected to the Burlington City Council.

"I felt like I could make a difference," Wall said. "I felt like I could lead people in a different direction."

With that, Wall ran for Mayor and was elected in 2007.

But what many may not know is the path Mayor Wall took to get to City Hall.

After receiving an undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University, Wall pursued his love of athletics by coaching baseball and basketball at Williams High School in Burlington, later becoming the school's athletic director.

"I probably got into education for all the wrong reasons," Wall said. "My goal was to coach at the college level. But somewhere along the line, I fell in love with kids and loved teaching and loved being a part of that."

Wall went on to become a vice-principal and principal at two different local high schools, and is now the Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services of the Alamance-Burlington School System.



LAURA SMITH | Reporter

Burlington mayor Ronnie Wall hopes to accomplish many things before his term ends next year. "I'd like to see Burlington bounce back with new industries," he said. He also hopes to increase funding for public roads, decrease gang-related violence and curb street solicitation.

Wall does not only take on local politics everyday, but commits the rest of his time to the students within the school system.

"I think Ronnie does an excellent job at both," Alamance-Burlington School System Superintendent Randy Bridges said. "Ronnie is an outstanding leader. It takes a well organized person who has an appreciation for time and time management, and Ronnie does it well."

Wall is very focused on

many important issues facing Burlington right now, such as improving East Burlington through advancing its infrastructure with additional sidewalks and recreation facilities.

Wall is working to revitalize downtown Burlington as well and is confident it can be brought back. He said he is hoping to see economic revitalization, similar to what has been seen in Greensboro, N.C. and Greenville, S.C.

"I'd like to see Burlington bounce back with new industries," he said. "We've got to take advantage of our number one resource, and that's water."

He is currently in discussion with the council over the Jordan Lakes project and said he will continue to be active in the matter.

Economic development, housing maintenance, control of street solicitation and funding for roads are just some of the other projects

he is trying to install in Burlington. He is also trying to raise awareness regarding gang activity and reduce its presence in Burlington.

But aside from tending to the needs of Burlington, Wall enjoys spending time outdoors, working in his yard, playing golf and spending time with his family.

Wall has two stepdaughters, Ann and Maggie Love. His wife, Susie, was recently inducted into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame.

"I feel like I'm very lucky and fortunate to have a good family," he said. "If it stopped tomorrow, I think I would be successful because of the people I have been surrounded by."

Those who work with Wall support him as well.

"He works hard, he puts a lot of time and effort in," City Manager Harold Owen said. "He's really focused on communication in reference to attempting to be open to the citizens. People call him and he gets back with them and communicates with them and I think that's probably one of his strongest points."

Mayor Wall's term is up in November 2009, but he is optimistic about the future.

"It's very important to me for us to be productive, us being the council," Wall said. "If I'm not productive and I'm not moving the city in a direction we need to move, I obviously don't need to be the mayor."

Most of all, Wall said he cares about the city he is so proud to call home and the concerns of the people who live here.

"I'd like to make the quality of life improved for the citizens of this great town," Wall said. "They deserve that."

Local center gives students opportunity to connect with nature

Julie Halm
Reporter

Less than 10 miles from Elon's campus is a 165-acre sanctuary, robust with flowering plants, medicinal herbs and seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Timberlake Farms is part of the Center for Education, Imagination and the Natural World, located in nearby Whitsett. The center's mission, "to bring to life a new vision of the relationship between the inner life of the child and the beauty, wonder and intimacy of the universe," is achieved through a variety of experiences.

The center has an informal partnership with Elon University. Philosophy Professor Emeritus, John G. Sullivan, serves on the center's board of directors alongside current sociology professor Lisa Peloquin and philosophy professor Anthony Weston. Scott Crews, a 2003 Elon graduate, helps manage many of the center's programs for children, and the center continues to recruit interns, garden apprentices and volunteers from within the Elon Community.

Elon senior Melissa Sienko has volunteered at the center numerous times. She first visited Timberlake Farms on a service trip with her honors society, Alpha Kappa Delta. She described the experience as "so much fun" and said it was a great opportunity to bond with other members of the society. She said it was the good people, the relaxed setting, and the hard, yet rewarding, work that made her want to continue volunteering at the center.

Sienko does not work directly with the children who attend the center's programs, but works on the farm itself, pulling weeds and helping to maintain the garden. Volunteers can also be trained as guides if they are willing to give a more consistent time commitment, but for the busy Elon student, garden work is a great way to get involved.

"It's all about caring about nature through learning about it," Sienko said.

As for her personal experience, Sienko has gotten a great deal of personal satisfaction out of her volunteer work.

"It was really relaxing, so it was good for a tough semester," she said. "The people at Timberlake farms really appreciated us coming."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sociology professor Lisa Peloquin occasionally takes her students to work at Timberlake Farms in Whitsett. Seniors Caitlin Pascarelli, Sam Slaughter, Melissa Sienko, Michael Sadler, Jessica Isaf and Alyssa Poggi volunteered there.

In addition to the farm, which produces medicinal and culinary herbs and produce, the center runs programs for children of all ages. One option is Children of the Forest, an after school program for young children. Every week, a staff naturalist takes small groups of children on tours of the center's farms, creeks, forests and fields. The center also offers a summer camp for kids ages 5 to 13.

There are additional programs available to professionals, including nature retreats, informational seminars and education sessions for kindergarten and pre-school teachers looking to incorporate nature into their classrooms. The center occasionally rents out its grounds to businesses for employee retreats.

Finding a cure in this lifetime

Staff member fights breast cancer, advocates prevention and vigilance

Noelle Clemente
Reporter

Many students know Susan Patton as the associate registrar, the faculty member with whom all graduating seniors must meet. But Patton is also a breast cancer survivor.

On Sept. 19, 2006, Patton's journey with breast cancer began. After a routine mammogram, she was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer, meaning that although the tumor was still small, it required immediate treatment. The news was shocking to Patton.

"Even though you do everything right, you can still get cancer," she said.

Patton underwent invasive surgery to remove the tumor and a round of radiation to destroy any remaining cancerous cells. The treatment was not aggressive enough, and she was informed that the cancer had become more serious and was now classified as stage two.

She underwent two more operations that removed

"Cancer happens. You have to appreciate and accept help offered. Be positive, have a sense of humor and count your blessings everyday."

more of her breast tissue and nearby lymph nodes. Doctors also installed a Port-a-Cath beneath Patton's skin. The rubber tube gave doctors easy access to administer chemotherapy medicine, but chemo was still difficult for Patton. Her life rotated around doctor's appointments.

"The cancer center's routine became my routine," she said of chemotherapy at Wesley Long Community Hospital in Greensboro. Even today, she can rattle off the process: sign in, get a beeper, get blood work done, wait for the beeper, meet with a doctor, wait for the beeper, go to the chemo room.

After Patton completed chemotherapy, she underwent radiation. She received treatment five days a week for six weeks, always following the rigorous schedule despite how tired it made her. She still attempted to live a normal life, spending time with friends and family.

"I've been blessed," she said. "I had cancer, but it never had me."

Like many cancer patients, Patton dealt with losing her hair.

"It's not just the hair on your head, it's all over your body," she said. "You're as bald as a baby."

Her first wig was something of a fashion faux-pas. Patton remembers her cousin comparing her to Thelma Harper from Mama's Family, a TV sitcom from the early 1980s.

"You just have to have a sense of humor no matter what," she said.

Her husband, Steve, was her biggest supporter throughout the process. He convinced her to wear caps instead of wigs and even used a lint brush to remove the remaining pieces of hair from her head. She said that Steve's love and support helped her survive the difficult treatment process.

"His words of 'I love you' were the most comforting," she said.

Two weeks before Thanksgiving, Patton returned to Wesley Long Hospital for bone, chest and CT scans to see if the cancer had returned or spread elsewhere in her body. She admits that she was fearful in the days leading up to the appointment, but was thankful for the good news

she received.

"As far as I know, I am cancer free," she said proudly. Despite this, she will continue to receive treatment for the rest of her life.

Patton said that she could not have been a survivor had it not been for the support of others. Her oncologist, Gustav Magrinat, told Patton that there would probably be a cure in her lifetime.



Susan Patton

"That was one of the most encouraging things to hear," she said.

She gained courage from the survivors who went through treatment before her, from the doctors working tirelessly to find a cure for cancer and from the nurses at her hospital.

"You have to be born with that special gift they have working with cancer patients," she said of her caregivers at the hospital. She said that they were always positive and compassionate throughout her treatment.

In October, Patton was one of the noted speakers for Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's Pink Pearls commemorative gala, dedicated to breast cancer survivors. After telling her story, Patton left guests with a few words of wisdom.

"Check yourselves regularly, have mammograms and do not be afraid to take immediate action," she said.

The ordeal has left her with a new outlook on life.

"Cancer happens," she said. "You have to be prepared for surprises. You have to appreciate and accept help offered. Be positive. Have a sense of humor. Count your blessings everyday. Look to the future."



HOW TO: Administer a breast self-exam

Every year, more than 1 million women find a lump in their breasts. While this may be a scary statistic, cancer that is detected early is more likely to be cured. The American Cancer Society recommends that all women age 20 and older should conduct breast self-exams every month at the same time each month.

1. Stand in front of a mirror with your shoulders straight and your arms at your side. Look for any dimpling, puckering, swelling or bulging as well as recently formed rashes or redness. All may be warning signs and should be reported to a doctor.
2. Raise your arms above your head and look for the same warning signs. Also be on alert for any watery, milky, bloody or yellow fluid coming out of the nipples.
3. Lie down with your right hand above your head and your left hand on your right breast. Keep your fingertips firm and flat as you move them in quarter-sized circles to cover your entire breast and armpit, feeling for any lumps or nodules. You can also try moving your fingers up and down in rows. Repeat on the other breast.
4. Repeat step 3 while standing up, possibly while in the shower.

Friday classes might stem Thursday night drinking

Holly K. Hacker
The Dallas Morning News-MCT

"Thirsty Thursdays" thrive on too many college campuses. And why? Blame it on Class-Free Fridays.

Binge drinking remains a serious problem among college students across the country. So universities warn students about the dangers with workshops and scary films. They police dorms for underage drinking and plaster educational posters around campus.

But they also ought to look at their class schedules.

A group of students, professors and administrators at Southern Methodist University did that last year. And they didn't like what they saw.

In a sharply worded report, the group (formed to study fraternity and sorority recruiting practices) found that class scheduling - namely, a dearth of Friday classes in many departments - contributes to SMU's party culture.

When students don't have Friday classes, it's easy to start

partying Thursday night.

Researchers at the University of Missouri found the same thing. A study published in July found that undergraduates drink noticeably more alcohol on Thursdays when they have no Friday classes or when their Friday classes start after noon.

Those who had to wake up early for Friday classes (starting at 9 a.m. or earlier) consumed the least alcohol on Thursdays, a little more than one drink on average. Those with Friday afternoon classes or none at all imbibed the most.

You might think those Thursday slow sippers would just catch up on Friday or Saturday nights. But that didn't happen. So holding classes on Fridays, especially before 10 a.m., may well reduce binge drinking, the study found.

What might work, they said, is giving tests on Fridays. That way, students would probably forgo beer to hunker down with books.

So if Friday classes are such a great idea, why don't colleges schedule more of them?

There's plenty of resistance,

and not just from students. Professors like having Fridays off so they can travel to conferences or do research. Student athletes travel for games. And many students work jobs that day.

Still, it doesn't seem fair that professors and students get a three-day weekend when the rest of the workforce doesn't. And there's no good reason for classrooms to sit empty on Fridays. Maybe colleges wouldn't need more buildings if they used the ones they've got more efficiently.

If those arguments aren't convincing, you can always go after a college's all-important image.

Here's what the SMU group concluded in its report last year:

"Our academic scheduling practices contribute to the perception of the university's central mission, the academic preparation of our students, as a part-time endeavor."

Obviously, Friday classes won't single-handedly solve campus drinking problems. We still have this thing called weekends. But it's a good place to start.

OVERHEARD AT ELON U

Junior Nick Massa created "Overheard at Elon U," a Facebook group that highlights ridiculous comments made by Elon students. The group features daily posts and hosts more than 850 members.

"My roommates' parents convinced her she's allergic to alcohol."

— *overheard by Kristen Feeney*

"He's mango fresh, bro."

— *overheard by Rachael Jones*

Girl: "How was your date?"

Boy: "Not that great. I had to tell her that I have a girlfriend."

— *overheard by Caitlin McClelland*

"She peed on your clothes? You really have roommate problems."

— *overheard by Michelle Wrightman*

Former Elon standout reflects on life in the pros

Shelley Russell
Special Projects Editor

Playing soccer was in his blood. It was his calling. It was his passion. Anthony Catalano started playing soccer at the age of 4, pursuing the game on travel and club teams in Virginia and playing for the Roanoke Stars throughout his high school career.

Catalano began playing a lot of midfield positions in his first years with the Elon Phoenix, serving as a walk-on until his senior year, when Catalano earned a scholarship and the position of team captain.

But Catalano was already setting his sights on professional soccer teams. Before his senior year at Elon, he interned with the Charleston Battery in Charleston, S.C., Catalano was able to train with the United Soccer Leagues first division team during his internship.

His internship led him to sign with the team following his graduation in 2006, and later to play for the Richmond Kickers in 2008 in the second division of the USL. Catalano credits his Elon experiences for helping shape his future. Catalano has also spent two weeks playing soccer in Italy.

"Through my college career and professionally, I wouldn't have been able to do what I did if it wasn't for going to Elon," Catalano said. "I was able to become a really determined player, which helped me in my professional experiences. My time on Elon's team was the most memorable



Anthony Catalano

of my soccer-playing days."

So where is he now? Catalano is in Atlanta working with a medical supplies sales company. He broke his leg during one of the last games of the season in August and is nearing a full recovery. But it's not the injury that is keeping him off the field.

"It wasn't my leg, but more my decision to kind of walk away from the game," Catalano said. "It's been a long run but I think it might be time for me to change a little bit."

While his choices may lead him away from a professional career in soccer, there's no doubt that Catalano will remain involved with the game in some capacity, whether it be supporting his friends on the field or coaching younger players in the future. Either way, Catalano will keep his Elon experiences with him throughout his life.

"I feel like some of my best friends and my life friends are those guys that I played with on the field every day," Catalano said. "For me, that was more important than winning games. Obviously I had a competitive drive to win, but it was the relationships that I made that have stuck with me."

College football's star



Texas vs. Oklahoma

Russell Varner: As expected, Oklahoma jumped Texas in this week's Bowl Championship Series standings and will now play Missouri for the Big 12 title and a chance to play in the national championship game. But this raises questions across the nation. Should they have jumped Texas when Texas beat them earlier this year? While many say Oklahoma deserves the nod, I think Texas should be playing Missouri. They beat Oklahoma head-to-head and have been playing great ball all year.

Conor O'Neill: I think since Texas beat Oklahoma, the Longhorns should face Missouri in the Big 12 Championship. I have seen Oklahoma as the best team in the country all season and quarterback Sam Bradford deserves a chance to play for the national championship. Oklahoma has scored no less than 40 points in only two games this season and their offense looks like it's better than half of the NFL's teams.

O'Neill: I'm not saying they don't deserve it, but I find it unfair to

Texas. The reason Oklahoma is getting the bid is because Texas lost its most recent game. If Oklahoma had lost a recent game instead of Texas, then it would be Texas that got the nod. The thing with the BCS is that they consider *when* you lose the game, not *if* you lose the game. The BCS needs a playoff system.

Varner: Texas does end up on the short end, but that's the flawed system. If that Texas freshman safety makes the interception off the tipped ball against the Red Raiders, we have an unbeaten Texas team. But if Texas Tech shows up to play against Oklahoma, Texas Tech is on the way to the Big 12 Championship.

Collegiate National Championship

Varner: Regardless, it is still the system we are stuck with to determine a champion. This brings up the next question: Who will play for the national championship? I think Florida will pull off the big upset of the weekend over Alabama while Oklahoma will handle Missouri quite easily. This will give us one heck of a national championship game.

O'Neill: It's obvious the Sooners will handle Missouri and head to Miami for the National Championship. I'll admit, before last weekend, I thought Florida would beat Alabama in a match-up for the SEC Championship. But after watching Alabama dismantle Auburn 36-0, I'm not sure Tebow will be able to lead the Gators past Alabama. I think the Alabama defense will be able to at least contain Tebow, and we'll see Oklahoma and Alabama in the Championship.

Have your voice be heard...

SGA

Student Government Association
Service. Leadership. Excellence.

Senate meetings are every Thursday at 7:30 pm - ALL are welcome

Engel's first year proves to be a success as she mentors men's and women's cross country

Russell Varner
Reporter

It was less than three months ago that Christine Engel was introduced as Elon's new men's and women's cross country head coach, as well as the assistant coach for the track and field teams. It didn't take long for her to leave her mark.

In her first year, she got the men's team to finish 19th at the NCAA Regionals, its highest finish ever in the event, and led the women's team to a 27th-place finish. Two of her runners, sophomore Emily Fourier and freshman Melanie Reyer, were also named to the All-SoCon team.

"My first year here has been a great experience so far," said Engel, who left Columbia University to coach the Phoenix. "The team has responded well and has really embraced the change."

"It is usually tough for a first year coach to get everyone on board with a new way of doing things and thinking," said Mark Elliston, head coach of the track and field team. "I believe that coach Engel has been able to get the cross country teams behind the new direction she is taking the program. Team members comment to me that they like what's happening and the new attitude in many areas of the program."

Engel has been involved with track and field since she was a little girl and hasn't left the sport since.

"I started competing at age 7," Engel said. She was a two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection as a member of Clemson University's cross country team. "This sport has given me so much and now I get to help young men and women as well."

While at Clemson, she was a member of the Tigers' school record-setting 4x800-meter relay, distance medley relay and 4x1500-meter relay teams and competed on Clemson's ACC champion distance medley relay squad. Engel's name fills the Tigers' record books, ranking in the top-5 in the 800-meter run and the mile and owning the Littlejohn Coliseum record for the 800 meters. Her standout career was recognized with her inclusion on the Clemson University Athletic Wall of Fame.

Even before her time at Clemson, Engel was making a name for herself at Mount Olive High School in New Jersey, where she earned All-American honors, was a six-time New Jersey Meet of Champions winner in the 1600 meters and was named New Jersey's Gatorade Athlete of the Year in 1992.

After graduating from Clemson in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in parks, recreation and tourism management, Engel then traveled across the country to become an assistant men's and women's cross country and track and field coach at the University of San Francisco. During her three years at the school, she helped both programs turn in the most successful seasons in program history and achieved two runner-up finishes at the West Coast Conference Championships.

While coaching the Dons, nine runners earned First Team All-Conference accolades and the team reached its highest conference and NCAA Regional finishes in USF history. Two of her athletes were also named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District team.

After three years there, she was hired at Columbia University in New York as an assistant cross country and track and field coach. She was only there for one year, but during those 12 months, she helped guide three student-athletes to All-Ivy League honors in cross country and two to All-Northeast Region accolades. She also coached Carmen Ballard to All-American honors and a 23-place NCAA finish in cross country. Her runners obtained five qualifying marks for the 2008 NCAA East Regional Championships as well.

But if you ask Engel what she is most proud of during her involvement with cross country and track



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Engel was announced as the men's and women's cross country coach after the resignation of former head coach Jackie Sgambati at the end of the 2007 season. Both teams have had unprecedented success with Engel at the helm.



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Engel graduated from Clemson University in 1996 after a high school and collegiate career dedicated to cross country.

and field, none of her individual accomplishments are ever mentioned.

"I'm really proud of [Elon's Emily Fournier] getting First-Team All-Conference in my first year as a coach, the All-American I coached at Columbia and helping people qualify for the Olympic Trials," Engel said. "That was a great honor. What is most important to me as a coach is watching the student athletes develop, both as athletes and people."

Engel's accomplishments were something that caught the eye of people here at Elon during their national search for a new coach.

"I wanted someone with good experience and someone who would continue to build the program and get it to the next level," Elliston said. "I was excited to have someone that had solid college experience in both recruiting and coaching and she seemed like a very nice person."

"Coach Engel brings a great deal of experience both as a coach and as an athlete from a larger school," said Matt Roden, the assistant women's track and field coach. "With so many new faces on the squad this year, there really is a new feel to the team. The attitudes of the girls have really been positive in relation to Coach Engel and it's going to be very enjoyable to watch how the team progresses over the year."

The transition from Columbia to Elon has been a successful and surprisingly easy one for Engel, who said the campus and facilities helped make the move easier for her.

"When I first visited Elon, I loved the campus," she said. "It was just so picturesque and it had such great



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Engel, with senior captain Ricky Myers, led the men's cross country team to a sixth place SoCon finish and a 19th-place finish at NCAA Regionals.

facilities. It is a great place to work and it is also very appealing for students."

And so how does this job compare to her previous ones?

"It is very different. I'm now both an assistant and head coach and the atmosphere here is very different as well," she said. But, I do very much like the college town atmosphere that Elon

has. It was hard to get that feeling at Columbia."

For Coach Engel, things couldn't be better.

"I got the best job in the world: I get to do what I love for a living." And Elon looks forward to many more years of her doing what she loves for the Phoenix.

Phoenix looks ahead after impressive, disappointing 2008

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

A memorable event is defined as any moment that is the result of past actions or when an event returns to a former condition. Elon football's fallen 2008 season epitomizes both parts of that definition.

For the second consecutive year, Elon finished one November victory shy of a chance to compete in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. On one hand, the team's late season record of 1-3 resembled last year's poor finish. On the other hand, it is impossible to recognize the gains the Phoenix have made in the recent past.

The argument can be made that one victory shy is better than no victories at all, an agony the Phoenix was faced with in the 2005 season. Now, three years later, Elon has won six Southern Conference games, five in a row, and whirled out seven consecutive victories, the program's longest streak in more than 30 years.

"We can't lose sight of the wonderful gains we have made," head coach Pete Lembo said. "It is a balancing act between the short-term disappointment and the short-term setback, but also seeing the big picture and understanding we came a long way to be so successful."

Three weeks ago, Elon lost a shot at its first-ever SoCon title in a hard-fought loss to the three-time defending national champions, then-No. 2 Appalachian State. In front of almost 25,000 fans, the Phoenix managed a lead in the third quarter but could not hold on and lost an eight-point conference clash.

After such a rewarding performance, the next weeks posed challenge. then-No. 20 Liberty appeared under lock-and-key, but the visiting Phoenix could not contain the Flames as they rolled to a 26-3 upset victory.

"I think our players left so much on the field up in Boone, it was hard for them to play at the same emotional level they did a week before," Lembo said. "We couldn't generate the intensity we needed to win the ball game. It is disappointing to me that we couldn't muster the same kind of intensity we had the week before."

And with the loss, Elon's hope of an NCAA playoff berth was put out like a fire by the Flames of Liberty University. Lembo said it is his hope to capitalize on the past few seasons and go from a good football team to a great one.

"It starts with the investment the players make," he said. "We have to have more guys who want it so bad they can't live with anything short of achieving that goal. To just believe is not enough. It has to be such an emotional commitment every Saturday we



Sophomore running back Brandon Newsome racked up a team-high 931 yards during the 2008 season. He scored two touchdowns while averaging 77.6 yards per game. Newsome also tallied a team-high long of 55 yards. FILE PHOTO

absolutely refuse to lose."

All four senior captains will be graduating in the spring, but arguably the hardest loss will be four-year starters, kicker Andrew Wilcox and punter Brandon Lane. Wide receiver Bo Williamson, who stepped up to fill the shoes of Michael Myers after last season, will be a big offensive target Elon will miss.

Overall, the Phoenix will be returning almost its entire roster, with many players returning as juniors next season, some even sophomores.

"A big part of my job in the offseason will be continuing to challenge our guys and develop the leadership component so we have more guys leading

the charge saying, 'nothing less than the best is acceptable,'" Lembo said.

Instead of preparing for a weekend playoff game as hoped, Thanksgiving was instead spent planning recruiting routes for the future Elon football team. Lembo and staff have already hit the roads in search of new talent to add to their young roster.

"One of the things that is apparent is the progress we have made in three years," Lembo said. "When we meet with men in high school, they are now certainly well aware of the success and building reputation of the program. It gives us an opportunity to recruit guys who a few years ago would not even think about us."

Charleston visits 'The Nest' for conference opener

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Last season, the seventh-seeded Elon Phoenix men's basketball team claimed the sixth-seeded College of Charleston Cougars as victims in its incredible run through the Southern Conference Tournament.

Now, the Cougars will be returning to the home of the Phoenix to kick off the all-important conference schedule for both teams at 7 p.m. Thursday night.

"Because we made it to the finals last season, it doesn't matter who we play because they are all going to be ready and waiting for us now, whether it is Charleston or another team," forward Adam Constantine said. "We'll play our best game, they'll play their best game and hopefully our best prevails."

The Cougars enter "The Nest" coming off an 82-80 overtime victory against the University of South Carolina. The win upped Charleston's record to 5-1 going into SoCon play.

"Charleston will come in here feeling very good about what they have accomplished up to this point," head coach Ernie Nestor said. "They have their entire team back. They are the most physically talented team in the conference, no question. We are a much different team [than last year]. We need to get ourselves straight."

While the Cougars return all their players, Elon lost its starting backcourt to



Junior forward Adam Constantine (32) has scored a combined 37 points in four games for the Elon Phoenix in the 2008-2009 campaign. He averages 9.3 points per game and 5.3 rebounds per game. FILE PHOTO

graduation last season. Nestor said freshmen guards John Booney and Drew Spradlin are doing a good job assimilating to college ball and will become more and more involved with the team.

Booney averages 4.3 points per game and has tallied nine

assists while Spradlin averages 6.8 points per game with four assists. Sophomore Chris Long has taken the reins for leading the offense and has a team-high 25 assists through four games this season.

"We are sort of getting a sense for playing guys and

how to play them," Nestor said. "We are looking for different things in each game we play."

The game against Charleston marks the beginning of a four-game home stand for the Phoenix, in which it will face two

conference opponents in three days. After a break for exams, the men are back in action at Alumni facing non-conference opponents Lees-McRae and Lipscomb during the holiday season.

"It is nice to be in a familiar area, our home court with our students, when we start to play the very important games that will ultimately decide the postseason," Constantine said. "It takes another element out of it. Travel wears and tears the body so being home definitely does help but we have to be ready to play wherever and whenever we need to."

Elon (1-3) started off the 2008-2009 campaign with a loss to powerhouse West Virginia University before earning its first win of the season over Southern Virginia. Last week, the men dropped a close 76-67 decision to Virginia Tech for the second consecutive year.

The Phoenix tied the score with less than 10 minutes left to play in the second half, but was unable to cash in from the line for its third loss of the season.

"It gives us some confidence, especially after the loss to West Virginia," Nestor said. "When you play a team like that that you know has superior talent, you know you are going to have to do something extraordinary to succeed. We just couldn't cash in on offensive opportunities, but we competed well."

SKILLZ ON WHEELZ

Tournament fundraiser rolls to inspire change



Associate leisure and sport management professor Jim Drummond throws the ball down court in the Skillz on Wheelz tournament Friday, Nov. 21, in Alumni Gym. Drummond was one of many leisure and sport management professors who participated in the department fundraiser for the North Carolina Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association.

Professors and students in the Leisure and Sport Management Society raised an estimated \$8,000 through its annual Skillz on Wheelz fundraiser held Friday, Nov. 21, in Alumni Gym. All proceeds from the third annual tournament benefitted the North Carolina Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association, which works to provide a competitive hockey environment for people who need wheelchairs. The department put its own spin on the competition, playing basketball instead of hockey with teams of six. A total of 21 teams competed, having three players from each team on the court at a time, in two five-minute halves.



Senior Travis Meele dribbles down the court while he looks for an open teammate to pass the ball to.

Photos by David Wells, Photo Editor



Junior Alex Drayson rolls down the court and prepares to take a shot during the third annual Leisure and Sports Management Society Skillz on Wheelz tournament.



A team and its fans celebrate after it scores a basket in a match. During play, students were allowed to carry the ball while they wheeled twice, up and down the court.



As part of the fundraiser, a silent auction of sports memorabilia and local gift packages was held throughout the event until the championship game. A signed North Carolina Panthers football helmet was among the items up for bid.



Sports

2008: A year of records, improvements

Football

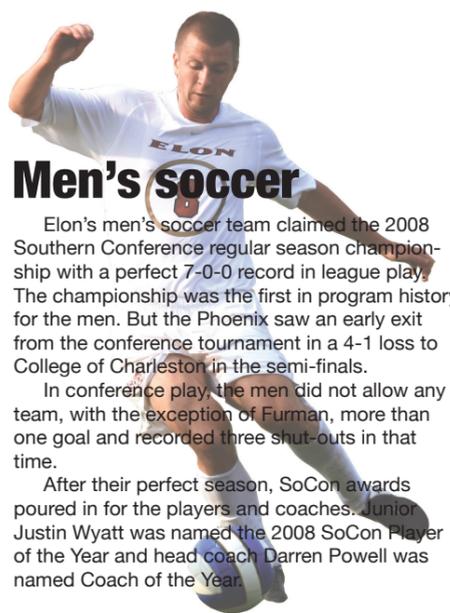
For the second consecutive year, the Southern Conference Championship and a Football Championship Subdivision playoff spot slipped just out of the reach of the Elon Phoenix football team.

On Nov. 22, then-No. 12 Elon was upset by then-No. 20 Liberty University 26-3 in the regular season finale for both teams. That brought Liberty to 10-2 overall and 5-0 in the Big South, good enough for the Flames second consecutive conference championship. Elon finished at 8-4 overall, 6-2 in SoCon.

Going into the final three weeks of SoCon play, Elon was undefeated and ranked No. 3 nationally. The Phoenix then dropped a game to Wofford and a battle at Appalachian State, locking the team out of a share of the league title. Hopes were still high for a win against Liberty that could provide the Phoenix with its first-ever FCS playoff berth, but the loss knocked Elon out of contention.

The Phoenix finished in sole possession of third place in the SoCon and donned its best record since joining the conference in 2000.

During the heart of the SoCon schedule, Elon earned a seven-game winning streak, the program's longest in almost 30 years, including victories against nationally-ranked opponents, Georgia Southern University, Furman University and The Citadel.



Men's soccer

Elon's men's soccer team claimed the 2008 Southern Conference regular season championship with a perfect 7-0-0 record in league play. The championship was the first in program history for the men. But the Phoenix saw an early exit from the conference tournament in a 4-1 loss to College of Charleston in the semi-finals.

In conference play, the men did not allow any team, with the exception of Furman, more than one goal and recorded three shut-outs in that time.

After their perfect season, SoCon awards poured in for the players and coaches. Junior Justin Wyatt was named the 2008 SoCon Player of the Year and head coach Darren Powell was named Coach of the Year.



Women's soccer

For the fifth straight year, the women's soccer team fell in the first round of the Southern Conference Tournament.

The second-seeded Western Catamounts barely edged the Phoenix in a 1-1 tie that was decided in Western's favor 4-3 by penalty kicks.

Under the leadership of new head coach Chris Neal, the Elon women had their best season since joining the Southern Conference, going 8-8-3, the first .500 or better record since 1999.

The end-of-the-season national ranking saw the Phoenix jump 55 spots from last year, now being ranked 177 of 318 teams.

Elon's 4-6-1 conference record landed the team in seventh place out of 12 in the SoCon.



Information compiled by Michelle Longo
All photos: file photos



Volleyball

Elon's volleyball team finished the season 19-16, the most wins for the program since joining the ranks of Division I in 2000. The Phoenix's 8-10 conference record was good enough for fourth place in the North Division and a trip to the SoCon Tournament, where it fell 1-3 to top-seeded, four-time defending champions College of Charleston.



Men's and women's cross country

The men's cross country team finished 19th at the NCAA Regionals, its highest finish ever and 15 places better than the 2007 season.

This season, the men's team finished within the top-3 for all except one meet. They had one first-place finish at the Hagen Stone Classic where they finished ahead of nine other teams.

Elon also had one second-place finish and two third-place finishes. During the season, Elon beat out SoCon opponents 15 times in head-to-head competition.

The women's cross country team paced to a 27-place finish at NCAA Regionals and a sixth place finish at the SoCon Tournament.

At the conference tournament, seven of Elon's nine participants raced to personal bests.

The women had one first-place finish during the season, also at the Hagen Stone Classic.

To start off the campaign, the women Phoenix placed third in the Wake Forest Relays.