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THE PENDULUM

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DANGER IN THE DARK

Anna Johnson
Senior Reporter

Last Wednesday, Elon University sophomore Alex Trice, who is a multimedia editor for The Pendulum, was struck by a white Nissan Sentra while crossing the North Williamson Avenue and West College Avenue crosswalk. According to Elon Police records, this is the fifth accident involving a pedestrian or bicyclist this calendar year and the second time this year an accident has occurred at the Williamson Avenue crosswalk.

Trice was taken to Alamance Regional Medical Center and suffered minor injuries to the left side of her body.

Elon senior Catherine Melendez was driving the vehicle when the car struck Trice. Melendez said she was driving below the speed limit and could see no one at the crosswalk because of low visibility and the heavy rainfall.

"I had absolutely no idea anyone was there," Melendez said. "I wasn't speeding. I didn't see anyone. My boyfriend didn't see anyone. There was no light. It was raining. I would have stopped."

Trice was released from the hospital later in the evening. But other pedestrians and cyclists have been less fortunate. Last year, Elon chemistry professor Eugene Gooch died after being struck by a motorist while riding his bicycle on University Drive.

Ken Mullen, chair of Elon's safety committee, said once a semester the safety committee, made up of students and professors, walks around campus making recommendations to improve campus safety. Mullen said in recent years sidewalks, bicycle lanes and crosswalks have not been cited as an issue.

"Usually, tree limbs need to be cut," Mullen said. "Or we need a light there. Usually what happens is, once we get the official list and if (the projects) involve the town, we talk to the town planner."

He said if the road is state owned, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has to be contacted and the plans have to be approved. But if the town is solely involved, the town often works with the university to meet the recommendations.

Mullen said he was happy with the current

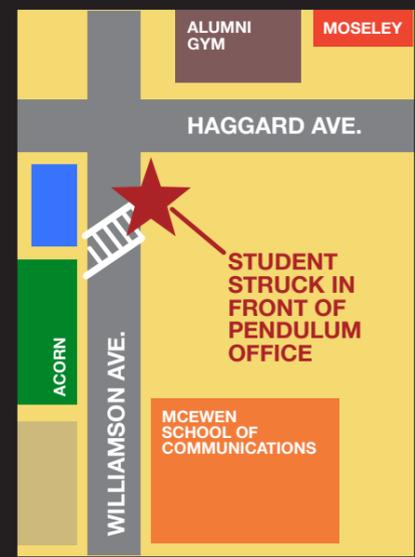
See **SAFETY** | PAGE 8



Sophomore Alex Trice receives help from friends and emergency officials at the Williamson Avenue and College Avenue crosswalk Wednesday evening. LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer

Pedestrian accident raises safety questions

LIGHTING bicycles
sidewalks
CROSSWALK
pedestrian ACCIDENT



CAROLINE MATTHEWS | Graphics

Spreading of sludge sparks controversy in Burlington



A vehicle spreads biosolids as fertilizer on a farm next to Sylvan Elementary School in Snow Camp, N.C., late last month. This event led to questions from environmental groups about the safety of biosolids. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jack Dodson and Rebecca Smith
Senior Reporters

Five hundred yards from Sylvan Elementary School in Snow Camp, N.C., a small town south of Burlington, biosolids were used for fertilizer on farmland and have sparked an environmental debate in the city. Biosolids, which are commonly referred to as sludge, have been a growing concern of environmental groups in the area for some time, Sewage Sludge Action Network Chair Myra Dotson said.

On the morning of Oct. 23, Synagro, the company contracted with the city to

manage the biosolids after treatment, was spreading the sludge on farmland next to the elementary school when a citizen noticed and filmed the event. The citizen then called Dotson, who came out to look at the situation and take photos of the incident.

"They were just sludging so much," she said. "It's unbelievable."

The law of North Carolina states the spreading of biosolids, must occur at least 400 ft from any occupied structure, said the city's Water Resources Director Bob Patterson.

"We were well away from that requirement," he said.

Groups like Sewage Sludge

Action Network make the argument that biosolids retain pathogens and toxins that are harmful to human health.

"The rules and regulations need to be updated, and there needs to be research done — unbiased research," Dotson said.

Currently, there are many regulations that must be met before the biosolids can be sprayed. There are metal limits and pathogen limits, and crops soak up the extra nutrients. There are also operational requirements.

For example, biosolids cannot be spread when it is

See **BIOSOLIDS** | PAGE 7



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Plans for multifaith center in the works



BRIAN ALLENBY | Photographer
LEAF President, junior Ross Denyer, and senior Jade Thierye sing hymns at the weekly LEAF service in Holt Chapel on Sunday.

Laura Smith
News Editor

In about two years, Elon University students will be able to take a larger part in religious life on campus.

Faculty and students are currently in the planning process for a multifaith center, which

would accommodate all different religions as well as religious organizations on campus.

Vice President and Dean of Student Life Smith Jackson and music professor Todd Coleman are currently co-chairing the multifaith center and identity houses committee.

The committee was established by President Leo Lambert, who hoped to place an emphasis on increasing religious diversity, Coleman said. The committee consists of students and faculty who represent different religious affiliations.

"It's a great process to see the development," sophomore committee member Raj Rawal said. "The religious center is one of the best ideas Elon has had. I feel like having more awareness of what's going on in other cultures and religions and how we get along is very important, and how critical religion is on college campuses."

Rawal, who is Hindu, helps out with the statistics in determining the religious demographics of students who may benefit from the center. He said he hopes to implement research groups and surveys to find out more about students' religious views.

Currently the main committee is split into three sub-committees. One committee is traveling to different colleges and universities

throughout the country to better understand their religious centers. One is gathering data to find out the makeup of the student body and get the opinions of students on religious life at Elon. Another is creating a mission statement detailing what religious and spiritual life at Elon should look like.

According to Coleman, the center will most likely contain one main sacred space that could hold about 200 people. There will be offices for religious life leaders such as Father Gerry Waterman, as well as religious organization leaders. Coleman said he thinks there will also be some sort of main social space and spaces for teaching as well.

LEAF, Lutherans, Episcopalians and Friends) currently holds its weekly worship service every Sunday in Holt Chapel and holds meetings in the Truitt Center.

LEAF student president junior Ross Denyer said he has greatly appreciated the use of the Truitt Center, but having a separate center like this would make things easier.

"I think this would be a wonderful opportunity

for LEAF or any religious organization," Denyer said. "It's very important because there need to be more opportunities for religious organizations to come together regardless of faith or spiritual center."

The Baptist Student Union takes up Moseley 215 for two hours each week for meetings and could use the extra space, president Sam Jennings said.

"It is really hard to find a meeting room on campus to house a medium sized group of individuals," Jennings said. "Therefore this center will allow us to have somewhere to meet and have leadership meetings as well."

Senior Avra Stackpole, president of Hillel, is also looking forward to what the center could bring to the Jewish student organization. Currently, Hillel uses the Newman Center, the Truitt Center and Moseley to host ceremonies and meetings.

"I think it will be nice to sort of have a place where we can have larger meetings and we can also hold events," Stackpole said. "As the Jewish population continues to

grow at Elon, we have more of a need for different things. I think it would be nice to have a place that feels comfortable, and somewhere you can go and take a deep breath."

In April, the committee will make the recommendations that are being planned to the Board of Trustees. From there, the board will begin looking into funding and execution of the center, which will not be complete for more than two years, Coleman said.

"It's something President Lambert feels strongly about," Coleman said. "It's a visible symbol that says we want to encourage each other in meaningful conversations about religion that is warm and friendly. The multifaith center looks outward in a way that seeks to be more understanding and sympathetic with other points of view."

The second step of the process will be to hold open campus forums that will take place for student input on the center. They will be at 4:15 p.m. Dec. 1 in Koury 145. All students are welcome to attend.

SGA rethinks student organization policy

Alexa Milan
Managing Editor

A professor as the general manager of WSOE or a graduate student as the president of the Student Union Board may seem like odd leadership choices for traditionally undergraduate student organizations. But the possibility of graduate and part-time students, faculty and staff participating in student organizations, particularly in leadership roles, is something the Student Government Association has recently been discussing.

The idea was first brought to SGA's attention about three weeks ago by Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, after a few organizations specified in their bylaws to the Student Life Committee that they want graduate and part-time students, faculty and staff to participate in some capacity.

The current policy states those groups cannot participate in student organizations because they don't pay student activity fees, but Jackson asked SGA to come up with a recommendation for the Student Life Committee about whether that should change.

"It is a very heavy responsibility to recommend an umbrella rule because every organization is completely individual," said junior Justin Peterson, SGA executive president.

Since the policy pertains to student organizations, Peterson asked for a straw poll or unofficial vote, of the organization council of SGA to get an idea of what a possible recommendation might look like. Peterson sought feedback from the Student Life Committee and asked the council members to obtain feedback from the organizations they represent before having SGA officially vote.

SGA has still not made a formal recommendation and possibilities are still under discussion, but Peterson said he knows faculty and staff will not be allowed to participate.

"There is the possibility of honorary membership with faculty and staff," Peterson said. "They're definitely allowed to unofficially participate — go to the meetings, voice their opinions, support the groups. But they can't be voting members, so they can't hold leadership positions."

Senior Kourtney Cloak, who represents the media board on the organization council, said the reasoning

is student organizations should always put the benefits of the students first.

She said she has heard of professor involvement on intramural sports teams at University of Virginia, but hasn't heard of professor membership in organizations beyond that.

"Obviously (professors) are going to be more qualified than some students, but what is the advantage?" Cloak said. "They don't need it for a job or their future."

In the straw poll, everyone on the organization council, except for one abstaining member, voted to leave graduate and part-time student participation up to each organization. Peterson said he likes giving organizations the power of discretion, but sees one problem with that possible policy.

"I think the only con really has to do with the student activity fees, because it's just not fair," Peterson said. "It's like if you don't pay taxes, you shouldn't get government benefits."

Of the two student groups in question, junior class vice president Joe Slocum said the SGA senate has a lot of empathy for part-time students.

"You could have one bad semester or you have financial trouble or your family has a crisis," Slocum said. "You don't want to stop somebody from having the Elon experience because they can't participate in student organizations because of extenuating circumstances like that."

Slocum said graduate student participation has been a gray area in senate discussions. Shelley Russell, a graduate student in the iMedia program, said in her experience, graduate students are too busy to participate in many student organizations. But she does note that it would be nice to have the option.

"While we might not be able to be in leadership positions, or really even have the time to be in a leadership position, I think that it would be nice to be able to offer some input if we wanted to attend the occasional meeting," Russell said.

Peterson and Slocum said they hope SGA will be prepared to make a final formal recommendation after the next senate meeting on Thursday.

Any students wishing to voice their opinions on the policy are encouraged to attend the SGA meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Moseley 215.

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Health and safety is priority but left out of strategic plan

Samantha King
Assistant News Editor

During the next 10 years Elon will build a new field house, an auditorium, more Colonnades-type housing as an incentive for upper classmen to stay on campus and much more. Although the Imagine Elon Strategic plan does not specifically call for changes and reforms to student health and safety, President Leo Lambert said it is implied.

"Student health and safety is absolutely a top concern," Lambert said. "It is assumed that there will be a high priority level."

One of the eight clearly defined sections of the strategic plan highlights Phoenix Athletics, stating, in the "Advancing Phoenix athletic" section in the plan that "The role of intercollegiate athletics is not to be underestimated in the planning for Elon's future."

The plan also stresses Elon's priority of "preparing students for a 21st century global society." The university aims to establish stronger community partnerships, more student scholarships and more study abroad destinations to continue improving the Elon experience for students.

Gerald Whittington, vice president of business, finance and technology for Elon, said the strategic plan would take higher priority than other budgeting requests.

"If you have a limited amount of money, the highest priorities that are likely to be funded are those in the strategic plan," Whittington said when asked how health care would be affected by the strategic plan.

Currently Elon's health center has only three full-time staff members. Full-time employment is defined as 35 or older, working

40 or more hours a week and earning a salary. Working full time also comes with paid benefits such as insurance, a retirement plan and disability insurance.

There are 10 other part time staff members, excluding counseling services, paid on an hourly wage, without any benefits. The facility has five exam rooms, one lab and a pharmacy.

According to Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life and an associate dean, the facility and staff are normally more than sufficient for students' needs.

"From (September) to Oct. 31, we saw about 400 more students this year as opposed to last year at this same time," Patterson said.

She said the increase resulted mostly from H1N1 and seasonal flu, but saw a significant increase in other illnesses such as mono and gastrointestinal diseases.

"Normally our wait time is an hour or less, but this fall, not so much," she said.

Many days a week, James Hawkins, the only full time physician, does not leave until 7 or 8 p.m. because of the overwhelming student demand, he said.

"They have allowed us to work extra hours (to combat the overwhelming need)," he said. "In fact we all are working extra hours."

One of the goals of the strategic plan is to expand and reconstruct student housing. Specifically the plan addresses rebuilding better North Area dormitories, and more upperclassmen housing. Lambert said he believes this would not directly affect the health center.

"I don't think the number of beds on campus would reflect an increased number of visits to the health center," Lambert said.

Patterson, who oversees health

and counseling services, said she disagrees.

"When you bring more students on campus, then we tend to have an increase (of student need for health services)," she said.

Although the strategic plan will take full priority over all budgeting requests, departments are encouraged to submit requests if needed.

The health center would be competing with other departments for funding, Whittington explained. Essentially it is up to Lambert and the Board of Trustees to approve the budget.

"Recommendations are made to me about which of those priorities are of utmost importance," Lambert said. "That has to be decided on an annual basis. The health center would be charged to advance its priorities if needed."

The health care center submitted an increased budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to fund additional equipment needed in late October, Patterson said. But at press time, the amount awarded had not yet been determined.

Although the health center is not addressed in the university's 10 year plan, it will begin constructing a 10 year plan of its own, Patterson said. The plan will address what the center will physically look like in the next decade and how it will be staffed.

All of the medical staff along with a student advisory board will look at results from a student survey to be taken in the spring and

See the rest of the article featuring aspects of safety and the strategic plan at www.elon.edu/pendulum.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Photographer

Senior Kenan Petrash heads into the Elon Health Center on Tuesday morning.

other factors, to determine what the 10 year plan should encompass exactly, Patterson said.

Hawkins said ideally he sees an expanded health care facility and perhaps the combination of athletic and student health care under one roof.

"I would love to see a wing added or a second story, whichever were easier so that we could see more patients," Hawkins said. "It also may be beneficial if the athletic physician could go from being part-time to full time, move here and maybe see some students as well as athletes."

Hawkins said he doesn't necessarily believe the staff needs to be expanded.

"We have an amazing staff," he said. "It would be great if (each person could work more hours)."

The draft for the health center's 10 year plan is projected to

be completed by the end of the spring semester. The senior staff and Board of Trustees must approve the plan.

Another factor Elon must account for is the nation's new health care reform and how it will affect Elon's health service delivery. Depending on how the national health care reform pans out, "we may have to collect insurance," Patterson said.

Presently "our health service fee is among the lowest for an institution of our size," Patterson said.

Lambert said keeping costs low would help keep the university's precedent as a "great value" school.

"We want to continue to keep all the fees for the institution low," Lambert said. "Our service is more comprehensive for most schools our size."

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BRIAN ALLENBY | PHOTOGRAPHER
Members of the university's administration, including President Leo Lambert and Director of Athletics Dave Blank, use their shovels to officially break ground on a new field house.

University breaks ground on new field house Saturday

Jack Dodson
Senior Reporter

As tailgating and game preparation was occurring around the university Saturday, members of the administration, the athletics department and the general public gathered north of Rhodes Stadium to break ground on Alumni Field House and Hendrickson Football Center. The project will be the first in a string of building plans announced by the university.

According to the office of University Relations, more than 100 people were in attendance at the event.

Moving into this new athletics building will be coaches' offices, locker rooms, meeting spaces for the football team, a conference room and weight rooms. In moving these facilities from the Koury Athletic Center, Director of Athletics Dave Blank said there will be room for a lot of growth for athletics and the campus as a whole.

"We have an outstanding Board of Trustees at this university and this board recognizes that it needs to set an example ... about what this university is becoming and what it will become in the future," President Leo Lambert said.

He also recognized some of the major donors of the project, including alumni Jay and Amy Hendrickson, who donated \$1 million in honor of their father, for whom the football center is named.

"(The building) will be the cornerstone of a football program that is already blessed with this beautiful stadium behind me," head football coach Pete Lembo said.

Chris Neal, the head women's soccer coach, remarked that in his experience coaching at universities, he learned not to hold his breath for new buildings like this, but the promises were fulfilled "before he could get that breath out."

He said it will be beneficial for all athletes, offering them a place to have all their facilities together.

"It has a tremendous impact," Neal said.

The building is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.

Saving lives as a way of life

Caitlin O'Donnell
Reporter

When students are sitting in Colonnades dining hall and someone at another table falls down, choking on his dinner, who is going to respond and help him?

To better prepare students and others to react to emergency situations such as these, the local American Red Cross chapter will be holding Instructor Training next week. For three days, participants will learn not only first aid and CPR, but how to teach others in their schools and workplaces these same skills.

"We will teach them how to become a great instructor," said Gina Wilborn, coordinator of the event. "We go over basic skills, but also how to fill out class rosters, the proper number of students, how the class is laid out and what is involved in teaching a class."

In many cases, there is an agreement between the Red Cross and a business where the trained employee can teach courses, Wilborn said.

"It is much more cost effective for the company," she said. "If the company pays to train one person, they can turn around and train 10 more for free."

Wilborn said she would like to see as many people as possible come through the training program. There are no pre-requisites besides being familiar with current CPR and first aid.

"You can tell someone who has a passion and they make the most wonderful instructors," she said. "They believe in what they are doing and they are helping other people reach their goals."

Wilborn said the training could be particularly beneficial for students, who would be skilled in how to take control in stressful, dangerous situations.

Ariana Wilkinson has experienced firsthand the importance of such skills. As a trained emergency medical technician, Wilkinson has directly worked within the medical field as well as in free clinics.

"I think becoming an EMT would help people become



PHOTO SUBMITTED
EMTs assist in emergency situations such as car accidents. Several Elon students help out in the local community attending to these situations.

more confident and get more experience working with others," she said. "It is definitely important to have compassion and patience because you tend to find yourself in difficult situations where you have to be able to keep those around you calm and keep control of the scene."

To become an EMT, courses are usually available through a community college or hospital and range from a few months to a year depending on the level of training desired (basic or paramedic).

Leigh Burgess, another certified EMT, said becoming an EMT is more than just volunteer work on the side — it quickly becomes who you are as a person.

"In my two years working as an EMT, I have seen life and death, been there for the first breath and the last, witnessed injustice and devastation, helped the hopeful and the lost and loved every minute of it all," Burgess said.

Elon University Citizen Emergency Response Team is another way for students to positively impact their community.

"The overall mission of EU-CERT is three fold," said Carly Fabrizio, co-president of the program. "We strive to train students in disaster

preparedness, to respond to disasters when called upon by the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and to assist with projects that are non-emergency related."

CERT teams are found across the nation, Fabrizio said. The program was first developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985 in order to train citizens to prepare for possible natural disasters.

"In today's world with events such as Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina, it is invaluable to have citizens in the community readily available to help out by utilizing their CERT training and facing disasters in a safer, more appropriate way," she said.

For Burgess, playing a part in saving a life can be both rewarding and sobering.

"Those calls, even the bad ones, give you a rush and an inexplicable feeling," she said. "A wave of energy and anxiety washes over you. I have pushed the limits of my strength countless times."

Wilborn echoed Burgess's message.

"For me, look at how many people that one person can touch," Wilborn said. "If I can get through to one person everyday, it's so worth it. If a student can take the initiative to teach other people, it's very rewarding."

Driving students out of their cars and onto their bikes

Sarah Chaffee
Reporter

Raising the price of parking passes could lead to a significant reduction of single occupancy vehicles at Elon. Seniors of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Policy Development seminar discuss driving less and commuting via bike as alternatives.

"A 10-day parking pass for the semester is an option," said Nick Dioguardi, a coordinator of the seminar focus group concentrating on alternative forms of transportation.

Charging \$20 for a 10-day parking pass could motivate students to ride their bikes or walk when driving is not absolutely necessary.

"Carpooling has several benefits," said Elaine Durr, Elon's sustainability coordinator.

Besides saving money on gas, putting less wear on someone's car and adding company to one's commute, Durr said carpooling is "preventing 19.4 pounds of CO₂ emissions for each gallon of gas you don't use."

Dioguardi's seminar group is trying to help Durr find strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on campus. The focus of the research is to find incentives that will get students invested in alternative forms of transportation.

"Effective ways to gain student interest," Durr said, are "crucial for the research of this senior seminar."



JUSTINE SCHULERUD | Staff Photographer
An Elon student steps off the BioBus at the Center for the Arts stop on Monday. Seniors of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Policy Development seminar are discussing alternatives to students driving to and from campus on a daily basis.

Dioguardi's seminar section held focus groups to receive student feedback on various alternative transportation methods. Collaborating with Durr on the development of the transportation section of Elon's Climate Action Plan, these seniors hope to find viable options for the immediate future.

"Distance from campus, time

and weather are major annoyances for people," said Alison Brooks, lead coordinator of the senior seminar focus group.

Ideas of bike lanes and sidewalks floated around, but many of the students worried these constructions would take a lot of time and money, she said.

A few strategies pertaining to their

research include promoting swipe bikes, extending the BioBus time, designating preferential parking for carpoolers and building more sidewalks.

"The alternative methods are free," said Jackie Koehn, a coordinator of the senior seminar focus group, noting a hidden incentive towards the use of alternative transportation.

Carpooling, biking, walking and the BioBus are recommendations of Elon's Sustainability Master Plan, a production process completed in the spring of 2007.

Parking passes hit a high of \$160 this year at Elon, adding to motives pushing students toward these alternative forms of transportation. Parking fees add to an Elon fund that is attempting to construct safer sidewalks and parking lots.

"We knocked on over 60 people's doors," said Kelly Fieldhouse, senior, another member of the seminar group.

Fieldhouse said they discovered several students didn't have parking passes.

"The BioBus is a nice alternative," she said.

Focus group students reacted by noting the BioBus needs to be more reliable if they are going to depend on it.

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Students from the Center for Leadership assemble at last year's leadership conference. This year's conference is set to take place in February in the Moseley Center.

Student leaders prepare for upcoming conference

Alex Moss
Reporter

On the Elon University homepage, a video clip shows President Leo Lambert expressing his certainty that Elon graduates are needed in the world.

"We are turning out some very special young people prepared to assume positions of leadership in the world," he said in the video.

The 40-second clip stops short of explaining how Elon prepares students to be leaders. But an event in February is attempting to do just that.

The Leadership Development Institute, an annual one-day event designed to help students hone their leadership skills, is scheduled for Feb. 27. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Moseley Center and is the culmination of Lead Week, a time devoted to student leadership and sponsored by the Center for Leadership at Elon.

"We believe leadership can be taught," said Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs and Leadership Jalonda Thompson, event coordinator for the institute. "It will help students strengthen their leadership skills and develop new ones to be successful."

The event, first held in 1998, is a student-led initiative. The Center for Leadership's student consulting team, a group of students who consult with campus organizations on a variety of issues, organized the event.

"LDI has grown a lot over the years, mainly due to the increase of organizations and leadership opportunities at Elon," senior consulting coordinator Noelle Clemente said. "I look forward to planning this year's event again."

The morning will begin with students arriving at McKinnon Hall to listen to this year's keynote speaker, Christopher Gergen.

Gergen is a founding partner of New Mountain Ventures, an entrepreneurial leadership development company, and co-author of "Life Entrepreneurs: Ordinary People Creating Extraordinary Lives." His speech will relate the ideas of his book to student leadership in organizations.

"He has a breadth of knowledge on why and how we use our leadership," said Mallory Anderson, director for the Center for Leadership. "We are thrilled to have him this year."

After the speech, students will attend whichever workshops they prefer. Ten to 12 workshops are offered per session, and three to four sessions will take place before closing remarks. Last year, workshops ranged from "How to Conduct a Meeting" to "Ethical Leadership." The workshops will be held in locations throughout Moseley Center and led by faculty members from all across campus.

"We send out applications to faculty, they submit a proposal, then we select which ones we like," Anderson said.

In a bit of a role reversal, the student leaders are reviewing faculty members now and will make selections before exams.

The purpose of LDI is to work on transitions within organizations and set leaders up for success by giving them an overview of all the tools they need, Clemente said. While LDI is targeted toward those who are in student organizations, all students are welcome to attend.

"The ideas being discussed are transferable," Anderson said. "For instance, you can apply them to group or community work."

Students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible because the conference is free for the first 50 students. After this number is reached, the cost to attend, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch, is \$5. More than 100 people registered for last year's event.

"It was a busy day," said sophomore Ted Pease, a student coordinator for the event last year. "The speaker was awesome, the sessions went well and I'll definitely come this year if I can."

Clemente said the institute serves as more than just a day of building leadership skills.

"LDI strives to enhance people's innate leadership qualities so they can better use their strengths and recognize the weaknesses they can improve upon," she said.

"It's an exciting time," said Rex Waters, associate dean of students. "(It's) another chapter of opportunity for students."

REGISTER

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'China Road' announced as 2010-2011 common reading

Lauren Ramsdell
Reporter

The Common Reading committee has announced its choice for the 2010-2011 school year. During the summer, all incoming Elon students will be required to read "China Road" by Rob Gifford, former correspondent in China and now chief of National Public Radio's London Bureau.

The committee said a speech given by director of the Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations Orville Schell last September inspired its decision.

In his address, Schell told audience members, "China is coming closer and will move larger and larger with each passing year. Whatever field of endeavor you happen to be in, you will find China playing a larger and larger role in your life."

The committee said it believes it is essential that students begin to learn about China from first-hand reading, rather than from second-hand sources. Members of the deciding board emphasized China's role as a growing world power that will likely be a part of many students' future careers and endeavors.

"China Road" is an account of a journey Gifford took from the beginning of China's Route 312, likened to the United States' old Route 66, to the end of the road, traversing the Gobi desert and joining up with the

famous Silk Road.

From Shanghai to the border of Kazakhstan, Gifford meets with every facet of Chinese life — from peasants, businesspeople, Tibetan monks and everyone in between. In the text, he examines their role in the new economic superpower that is China.

Gifford uncovers the cracks in the walls of China's global image along the way and some urgent issues in middle China, far away from the major cities.

Janet Warman, chair of the Common Reading Committee, said committee members want to choose a book that will help new freshmen broaden their perspectives on atypical cultures, ideas and people.

"We always look for a book that will be accessible to incoming students, as well as one that will challenge their assumptions and give them greater insight," Warman said.

She said Schell's statements about China's quick rise to power and its future as the United States' best friend or worst enemy influenced the committee's choice.

"It is important for us to understand its culture and its role in the world today as it evolves," Warman said.

China's gross domestic product is the second largest in the world in terms of purchasing power parity, at more than \$7.5 trillion United States.

“

We always look for a book that will be accessible to incoming students, as well as one that will challenge their assumptions and give them greater insight.

- Janet Warman
CHAIR OF THE
COMMON
READING
COMMITTEE

”

The GDP is growing at 9.1 percent as of 2008, and they are not experiencing the kinds of inflation that other developed nations are currently struggling to keep at bay.

Warman said she hopes that by reading "China Road," students will be able to both appreciate and look beyond the economic aspect of Chinese society.

"I hope they will come to value the history and culture of China and develop an even greater sense of curiosity to know more," she said.

The committee takes nominations for the common reading in November or December and narrows the contenders down to three or four selections during the spring semester. During the summer, the committee reads the remaining books and makes the final selection in October or November for the upcoming year.

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Crenshaw HYUNDAI

Environmental groups raise questions about safety of biosolids

BIOSOLIDS from PAGE 1



JACK DODSON | Photographer

The South Burlington Wastewater Treatment facility in Graham converts the wastewater from the city into clean water, which produces biosolids. These nutrient-rich byproducts are used for fertilization on farmland.



Area college seniors protest to reopen Greensboro landmark

Melissa Kansky
Reporter

While most college seniors are concerned with their future, a handful of local university students are striving to preserve the past.

After the construction site of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum sat neglected for more than 16 years, the efforts of about 100 local college students fueled acknowledgement of the historic landmark, which will now open in February 2010.

Prior to the museum's existence, the building housed the diner where four African-American college students staged a sit-in at the all-white counter in 1960. Through flash mobs, art, the creation of a documentary and a \$2 benefit concert, students from various Greensboro colleges educated residents and raised money to honor the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

"Our goal is to educate first and fundraise second," said Zim Ugochukwu, a senior at UNC Greensboro and the founder of the mission.

All projects in relation to Ignite Greensboro aim to cultivate awareness of Greensboro's relationship to the Civil Rights Movement. During a flash mob, all those involved freeze while holding some symbol of education or teaching. Some participants hold textbooks while others clasp paintbrushes.

"(The flash mobs) serve to highlight cultural conformity of students who refuse to explore outside their campus," Ugochukwu said.

The Black Marker Project, part of the Ignite Greensboro campaign, also promotes the significance of knowledge. The project asks citizens of all ages and creeds

what knowledge and ownership represent. Individuals use markers to write on the white board and pose for a picture with their personal definition of knowledge and ownership.

"This project is meant to place visual notions on personal ideologies," according to the group's Web site.

"One step toward activism and advocacy is learning about what's in the community," Ugochukwu said.

While flash mobs and The Black Marker Project encourage residents to take responsibility and understand the history of the community, the creation of the Oral History Documentary further serves to educate the public about the 1960s Civil Rights Movement in respect to Greensboro.

"If you go to downtown Greensboro and drive around, you see this museum, and you see this big picture of four guys from your textbook. A lot of students don't know of the museum," Ugochukwu said.

The documentary attempts to combat the public's ignorance of community landmarks and showcase significant strides made by the Civil Rights Movement.

The \$2 benefit concert also maintains the theme of education and responsibility. The concert highlights artists who dedicated their work to activism and community involvement, and whose music emphasizes the consequences if people are not involved, Ugochukwu said.

While Ugochukwu said fundraising is second to education, fundraising and education are often intertwined. She said the money will go to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum as an intergenerational gift.

The International Civil Rights Center and Museum

features the disputed diner countertop as the highlight of the museum, while other exhibits, videos and music engage viewers and immerse them in the decade's turmoil.

Aside from the museum, the group also hopes to use some of the money to bring in speakers to talk about their experiences in the Civil Rights Movement, but will use most of the money for students in elementary school all the way up to college.

Ugochukwu estimates that if half the college students in Greensboro donate \$2 to the campaign, these goals can be accomplished. Still, she said she measures Ignite Greensboro's success based upon the public's awareness of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

Ignite Greensboro exhibitions aim to further promote the group's plight. UNCG student and Ignite Greensboro training leader Shawanda Martin said she believes the exhibitions have been successful, despite her initial negativity.

"I didn't expect as much (positive feedback) because I didn't expect the community to take a student-led movement seriously," Martin said.

Martin said she also worried about recruiting students to collectively organize the exhibitions, but since the beginning of the project her views have changed.

"I've seen progress as far as where we are as a student-led organization," Martin said. "Our leadership within the organization has grown and more people recognize our name. It's been a good experience. The exhibitions have been great and we have gotten a lot of good feedback from the community."

raining, at certain slopes and spreading needs to be in an area with little human contact, according to Jon Risgaard, the supervisor of land application unit for North Carolina Department for Environment and Natural Resources.

"No one can say with certainty that it's 100 percent safe ... or even with certainty that it has detrimental effects," Patterson said.

Both he and city water resources employee Eric Davis said if there was solid scientific evidence to suggest biosolids were unsafe, then the city would reassess their methods of waste water management.

Risgaard said public education about biosolids is a major part of ensuring there is less confusion about the safety of biosolids. This includes "making sure that the community understands the requirements (of the law)."

The major issue for Dotson was that the land application, or the spreading of sludge as fertilizer on farmland, was happening next to a school while it was open.

"We've been fighting sludge for almost a year now," Dotson said. "It's never even dawned on us that they would be sludging near a school. It wasn't even a realm of thought."

The Principal of Sylvan Elementary School would not comment on the incident because she reported that it did not affect the school day.

"We were notified of the incident after 5 p.m. the night before by a community member," said Jenny Faulkner, executive director of community relations for the Alamance Burlington School System. "We had no previous knowledge of this incident or any other similar incidents occurring before. This is not something we can stop, but we have asked the city of Burlington not to spray during school hours. What they are doing is legal and on private

property."

Faulkner said she has received no complaints from any parents, and as far as she knows neither has the principal of Sylvan Elementary School.

Some members of the environmental group approached the city of Burlington after the incident to discuss their concerns about spreading biosolids on farmland. They met with City Manager Harold Owen about the incident and expressed their concerns, Patterson said.

The city's stance on the issue is that Synagro was within compliance with their permit, which is a position that was reinforced when a state inspector visited the site the following week to investigate. Beyond this specific case, Patterson said the use of biosolids can be mutually beneficial for farmers and for municipalities.

"(Land application) is considered a beneficial reuse of the nutrients that are in the biosolids," Patterson said.

He also said the city uses a process called lime stabilization to kill pathogens in the sludge and deodorize it.

Another concern Dotson brought up was that the spreading of biosolids was happening while it was raining. Risgaard said the law currently requires that if there is half an inch accumulation of rain or greater within a 24-hour period, then land application must be put on hold. Less rain than that, he said, is "just not enough rain to really cause a problem."

According to Patterson, "no water at all was collected in the rain gauge (during that morning)."

"It is part of our plan to address all of these concerns about biosolids," Davis said. "We're trying to get the most benefit out of this waste product as we can get. The land application of biosolids is not something that is unique to Burlington, N.C."

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Poker continues to become a more popular pastime on college campuses, including Elon University.

NICK MASSA | Photo Editor

World Series of Poker helps bring the game home

Nick Massa
Reporter

In the last few years, poker has received massive national attention, becoming the favored hobby for people of all ages. There are tremendous opportunities to be had in the game — just ask Joe Cada, the youngest winner of the World Series of Poker Championship. Cada, who dropped out of college in favor of the game, won the series' grand prize of \$8.5 million. Not bad for a 21-year-old.

But not all college poker players win championships. Elon junior Adam Scalisi heads up a humble poker club with a few of his friends.

According to Scalisi, the club started out as just a game among friends who he knew would be interested, but soon expanded to include a much larger group of people.

Scalisi has big plans for what is now a relaxed get-together.

"What we want to eventually do is to have multiple games

going on at once at different tables," he said. "Then as people start cashing out, we eventually all consolidate into one table and finish off the game."

As of now, Scalisi said the league is pretty non-competitive.

"We're just friends," he said. "We play for chips, not money. I have an Excel spreadsheet already set up that keeps track of everyone's standings, and we see who can rack up the most points."

Scalisi said the group usually plays a movie in the background and just try to have a good time.

Other players around campus, such as junior Roger Black, are slightly more competitive.

"We usually play with a \$5 buy-in," Black said. "For the most part, the money just gets passed around, though. I've won the last few games we've played. When we play, the winner gets 75 percent of the total buy-in, and the runner up

gets 25 percent."

Black and his friends mostly play on Saturday nights, though not regularly. Aside from a few friendly ribbings, the game is kept very relaxed.

"We just get some drinks and play cards," Black said. "No one really cares who wins or loses, as long as we're having fun."

He said he and his friends became interested in poker around 2003 when the Game Show Network started broadcasting the World Series of Poker. While he still occasionally turns the poker game on when it's on TV, Black said he prefers playing to watching.

As much as he enjoys playing with friends, Black said he tries to stay away from online poker, where Cada got his start. He said the risks are too high.

"I had a friend who got addicted to online poker and ended up losing almost \$2,000," he said. "It's fun, but I'd rather play for \$5 with people I know."

College admissions begin using social networking tools

Madelyn Smith
Reporter

America's teenage population is more technologically savvy than ever before, and college admissions officers are now jumping at the chance to appeal to this high-tech generation. Many colleges across the nation are using popular social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube in the application process to attract potential students.

According to the National Association of College Admissions Counseling, about 60 percent of schools are now using social networking sites in their admissions processes.

One of these schools is Monmouth University in New Jersey, which is giving applicants the choice to submit either a written essay or Facebook video essay. Freshmen at Rutgers University have created blogs directed at prospective students to better educate them about college life. These blogs have proven popular, attracting more than 100 visitors daily.

Melinda Wood, associate dean of admissions and director of applications, said Elon has not yet considered offering an essay alternative online. Wood said after some additional planning and research, they would be willing to look into YouTube as a creative addition to the admissions process.

During the past five years, Elon has implemented several techniques to better connect to applicants, including Twitter pages, a Facebook fan page, admissions blogs and monthly AOL Instant Messaging question and answer forums.

Cindy Barr, assistant dean of admissions, said Elon Admissions' Facebook fan page has been helpful in educating potential students about events and updates on the admissions process. The page has almost 300 fans, 50 percent of whom are current students or applicants. This has also allowed alumni to connect with applicants and answer any questions they might have about Elon or college life in general.

Colleges also recognize they must be wary of their online presence. Kaplan states that 71 percent of admissions officers reported potential students had "friended" them on Facebook. Many schools believe befriending applicants allows them to see a more accurate portrayal of the student, but both Wood and Barr said they believe that if Elon were to do so, students would be discouraged from applying.

"We as an admissions staff have to enter into the social networking world carefully," Barr said. "We need to make sure that students know that our pages and blogs are out there, but we cannot create relationships that are too casual."

Tim McMahon, assistant professor of communications, said he agrees.

"Social media such as Twitter and Facebook are a means to connect," he said. "Further, the goal of these online connections should be to advance potential students to on-campus visits. I believe Elon does this well. Interested students who show up on campus are generally favorably affected. That would indicate expectations set online are consistent with real-world experiences."

Elon's online presence is maintained by admissions staff members who monitor trends in social networking sites and try to use those trends to appeal to more students.

One recently popular admissions tool has been Elon's monthly AOL Instant Messaging session. Interested students are invited to a 90-minute, Elon-controlled chat room to ask faculty, staff and current students about all aspects of student life. The chat rooms have been well received and will continue to be available for applicants in the years to come, Wood said.

“

We as an admissions staff have to enter into the social networking world carefully.

- Cindy Barr
ASSISTANT DEAN
OF ADMISSIONS

”

Recent accident on Williamson Avenue raises questions about safety

SAFETY from PAGE 1

crosswalks and with the number of crosswalks around campus. But he did say he plans to look at the parking spaces near the Williamson Avenue crosswalk to see if they are prohibiting drivers from seeing pedestrians trying to cross.

"Everyone has to be very alert," Mullen said. "We have to change our mindset when we are behind the wheel."

Chuck Gantos, director of campus safety and police, said he would also like the parking at Williamson Avenue to be addressed.

"There are some crosswalks that are excellent," Gantos said. "And there are some that need improvement. Our problem on Williamson Avenue is parking. The parking spaces are so close together that it makes walking across difficult. I would like to see some of those parking spaces go away."

Jerry Tolley, town of Elon mayor and director of Elon Society for Elon

University, said there have been no citizens who have approached the Elon Board of Aldermen at a meeting or to him personally about pedestrian and bicycle safety around Elon.

Tolley spoke to Mike Dula, town manager, who is going to get in touch with the North Carolina Department of Transportation about possibly installing a stop light at the intersection. Tolley said citizens have to let the Board of Aldermen know about pedestrian and bicyclist safety concerns in order for proper steps to be taken. He also said the town is working toward being more pedestrian friendly by following the Elon Bicycle, Pedestrian and Lighting Plan.

The plan calls for the town to "have a pedestrian, bicycle and lighting system that will tie major residential areas together, providing students and residents safe and well-lit access from residential areas to campus academic and recreational facilities and the

downtown," by 2030.

"Like a lot of municipalities, we have been hit hard by the recession," Tolley said. "There is not a lot of extra money around for these projects."

He said federal stimulus money is providing a means to phase in different sidewalk projects including a recent decision to add sidewalk spanning along South Oak Avenue from East Trollinger Avenue to Truitt Drive. Tolley also said the town is looking to put sidewalks along East Haggard Avenue so students living in off-campus apartments will have a safer way of getting to the university.

Tolley said regardless of improvements, pedestrians and drivers must be careful and alert.

Gantos said while lighting is often an issue brought up, more lights are not always the solution. He said in some circumstances the type of lighting needs to be changed. He stressed that sometimes the angle, color or

placement of the lights can make the difference.

"Take (last Wednesday) night for example," Gantos said. "It was raining and visibility was very limited. The lights on the road cause a glare and it can be worse than not having any light at all. It is as if your headlights are not working."

Gantos said he sees lots of students with their hoods pulled up, talking on their cell phones and not looking both ways when crossing the crosswalks.

"Exercise good judgment," Gantos said. "You may have the right of way but that is not going to help you if you step out in front of a car. You have to exercise good safety. It's the same thing you learned in elementary school — look both ways and make sure the driver sees you before you cross. If you do that, we'll all be a lot safer."

Since 2001 there have been a total of 15 accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists in the Town of Elon.



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Service with a Smile

Campus organizations give back

Laura Wainman
Special Projects Editor

Residents of a college town are always quick to notice when their slightly louder college neighbors step out of line and engage in behavior viewed as unsatisfactory. But what often goes unnoticed are the many acts of service Elon students engage in around the community.

The motto of Elon Volunteers! is to focus on the reason behind the service and not just the service itself, which is exactly what attracted senior Andrea Medinaceli, the Kernodle Center's outreach intern, to the organization in the first place. "I think Elon tends to come

off as a rich school, and service projects are a way of showing the residents of our community that Elon students truly care," Medinaceli said. "It says we aren't just donating money because we have it, but are interested in making a difference and affecting lives."

Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, hunger is on everyone's mind. Yet little attention is paid to those who are hungry during this feasting season. But at Elon, many organizations are dedicating an entire week to promoting awareness of the hungry and homeless.

Last night the annual Will Read for Food program was held in Yeager Recital Hall, and many Elon students, faculty and staff read selections from their favorite writers. All participants and attendees brought a can of nonperishable food to be donated to the Alamance County Food Bank.

Across town, on Nov. 17 the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. hosted a community service trip to the Allied Church of Burlington to help build beds for the homeless.

The educational week will culminate with a sleep-out on the west lawn Friday. Participants will sleep outside either in sleeping bags or cardboard boxes to show their support for ending the stigmas against the homeless. Guest speakers will be present and the documentary "Have You Seen Clem" will be shown.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The brothers of Alpha Phi Omega remain engaged members of the community by serving brunch at the Ronald McDonald House and cleaning up a stretch of highway adopted by the chapter.

It is tradition for the newest students and the community," senior APO president Julia Roberts said. "The residents get an opportunity to engage with college-age students, which truly brightens their days, and the students gain a little perspective and are taught humility — a lesson which is especially valuable for Elon students who tend to be from a higher socio-economic class than the typical Burlington resident."

Roberts said one of the most important aspects of being an active member of a community is practicing gratitude and

making it an action rather than just an emotion, which is one of the reasons she joined APO.

"When students get involved it helps perpetuate a positive representation of Elon as a university whose students are not only socially aware, but also socially active," Roberts said. "Plus, Elon students are an integral part of fostering and maintaining community partnerships that have taken years to form."

While a portion of the 46 active members were entertaining

the elderly residents at Blakey Hall, more of the brothers were engaging with other members of the community, such as lending assistance at PetSmart's holiday adoption weekend and participating in a Habitat for Humanity build. To cap off the weekend, the brothers of APO and sisters of ESA collaborated at the Conservators' Center for half a day on Sunday. It was an average weekend for an organization that has committed more than 900 hours of community service this semester.

While a portion of the 46 active members were entertaining

the elderly residents at Blakey Hall, more of the brothers were engaging with other members of the community, such as lending assistance at PetSmart's holiday adoption weekend and participating in a Habitat for Humanity build. To cap off the weekend, the brothers of APO and sisters of ESA collaborated at the Conservators' Center for half a day on Sunday. It was an average weekend for an organization that has committed more than 900 hours of community service this semester.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha is Elon's co-ed service sorority whose 30 active members dedicate hundreds of hours of community service every semester to its two philanthropies — St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and Easter Seals.

One of the biggest events for the sorority is the biannual service trip to St. Jude. Several members of ESA gave up their fall breaks this year to visit the hospital headquarters in Memphis, Tenn. The trip allows students to see first-hand the benefits of their service efforts for St. Jude.

"Our organization sends money to St. Jude's all the time and we never get to see how it is really impacting lives," said junior Brandon Landreth, president of the chapter. "I think this trip really got our members a lot more excited about what we are doing and inspired to continue the work."

Last Friday ESA hosted its semesterly babysitting night for the children of Elon faculty and staff, designed to give the parents a night off, free of charge. Participants are told they may give a donation to St. Jude's if they wish.

"Not only is coloring with a 4-year-old relaxing, but they have wonderful insights on the world," junior service chair Linda Kurtz said. "It's a great break from college life and a nice way to thank Elon faculty and staff for all of the hard work they do by giving them a few hours to do whatever they like."

While Landreth said raising funds for St. Jude's is ESA's primary focus, it also tries to help out as much as possible in Alamance



The sisters of Epsilon Sigma Alpha hosted a babysitting night last Friday for Elon faculty and staff, free of charge. The kids enjoyed an evening of fun and games with the sisters, giving parents a night of freedom.

County, too.

"We want all of our members to be engaged members of their community," Landreth said.

In December the sorority will again be giving back to the community by participating in Christmas Cheer. The members will have the chance to give the gift of Christmas to one family in the Alamance community.

"We will be given the ages of the children of our family, told of their most immediate basic needs, as well as a suggestion for a fun toy they may enjoy," Landreth said. "Our members love

participating in Christmas Cheer because they know they got to help make a family's Christmas a little brighter."

Landreth said he feels Elon is already doing a good job attracting engaged students, but needs to continue getting the word out about how students can get involved in the community from the moment they come to Elon.

"If you have a good experience with community service as a freshman, you are likely to continue," Landreth said.

Alpha Phi Omega

Epsilon Sigma Alpha

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.

Editorial

Objections to objectivity

Objectivity is a term most often applied to the media, its tenants serving as the ultimate goal of journalists and often ignored by their more uncompromisingly loquacious coworkers. Its relevancy has recently been questioned, particularly in the cable news industry where party lines are often as visible as the differing logos in the lower right-hand corner. The recent firing of Lou Dobbs at CNN Wednesday, allegedly for his well-entrenched viewpoints, particularly in regard to illegal immigration, was seen as a move by the network to expunge his brand of journalism from their airwaves.

CNN, which is currently in the basement of cable news ratings, saw a sizeable ratings bump the day after Dobbs' departure, with viewership increasing from 641,000 to 877,000, but that gain could be attributed to morbid curiosity. The Fox Report with Shepard Smith, Dobbs' timeslot competition, routinely garners more than 2 million viewers.

The viability of objectivity as a marketable asset, contrary to CNN's emphasis on the paradigm, is further called into question as the night goes on. "Anderson Cooper 360," the one primetime cable news show that prides itself on objectivity, commonly has a viewership about a third of that of Bill O'Reilly reruns during its second hour.

But objectivity is the most desirable quality in the newsroom, albeit a less commercially viable one. At the core of the judicial system is an objective heart, one that beats upon the presumption that there are certain inalienable rights to be applied to the guilty and innocent alike, both of whom are deemed indistinguishable at the onset of a case. Justice, it's been said, is blind, and those standing trial are to be innocent until proven guilty.

The announcement Nov. 14 that many of those held accountable for the Sept. 11 attacks, including alleged mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed, would be put into a federal criminal court in the southern district of New York City, is rife with moral and legal ambiguities. At the center of the storm is the question of just how objectively the judicial system should view the defendants.

For example, Mohammed has confessed to being the principal organizer of the attacks, but the confession could be brought into question in the courtroom. The Justice Department has admitted Mohammed was tortured via waterboarding 183 times in March 2003 alone.

There's the possibility that all evidence obtained as a result of this tactic could be thrown out completely, severely hampering the government's subsequent arguments. Not to mention the issue of dealing with secret governmental information that will inevitably be deemed too fragile to be released in the public court.

And there's the logistical dilemma. Juries are supposed to be inherently impartial, and even in widely publicized trials, it's still possible to find candidates who can honestly pledge objectivity. But when the jury pool will be composed of New Yorkers, when the courthouse is within walking distance of where the World Trade Center once stood, how many will be able to sit in the jury box without prejudice, without predispositions and without having been personally affected by the attack?

It should be noted that Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman was found guilty of seditious conspiracy charges alongside nine co-defendants for his role in the Feb. 23, 1993 World Trade Center bombings and was sentenced to life in prison in the very same courthouse in 1996. But the vast disparity

in the scale of the attacks in 1993 versus 2001 makes the two cases different matters entirely, along with the revelation that the government will be seeking the death penalty for Mohammed.

The fury that would ensue if, somehow, Mohammed were acquitted through legal wrangling, creates a dark cloud above the proceedings. Would the defense deem it necessary, if the defense did put together something masterful, to even give a thought to letting Mohammed walk down the courtroom steps an innocent man, despite their pledged duties? There will be an immense amount of temptation placed on the judge in regard to the sentencing.

Should Mohammed be sentenced to death, and in doing so possibly become a martyr and inspire his supporters? Or perhaps he, too, should be given life in prison at the risk of infuriating an entire contingent of the population? Despite the professional characteristic of judges at such a high level, when a case of this magnitude comes along, such thoughts are inevitable.

Two separate struggles, one of a sinking news magnate and the other of a courtroom dealing in atrocities, both present challenges for the treatment of objectivity. In regard to the cable news industry, the two competing mentalities are that of a utilitarian approach to objectivity, one that allows impartiality to ebb and flow as viewer trends dictate, and the other revolving around a possibly counterproductive adherence to the ideal's particulars.

In light of this, will the court adopt an attitude, however subconscious, of deeming Mohammed prematurely guilty for the sake of a battered nation, or could they, in the face of legal integrity, let a terrorist win the legal battle?

Looking both ways isn't enough

In the past year, two students have been struck by cars at the Williamson Avenue and College Avenue crosswalk. In addition to these two incidents, an Elon chemistry professor, Eugene Gooch, was killed in a hit and run last April while riding his bike. Fourteen other people have been hit either while on foot or riding bikes since 2001.

While each of these isolated incidents may simply amount to unfortunate accidents, they all point to both the Town of Elon and the university's lack of appropriate pedestrian infrastructure.

On any given day, most of Elon's several thousand students, faculty and staff walk across many of the streets that wind through campus. Every day when classes change, traffic backs up down Haggard Avenue, simply because students will not stop for cars, and motorists speed through campus faster than they should.

While Elon has adopted flashing lights at some of the crosswalks, it has left the most dangerous, by the School of Communications, untouched. With cars parallel parked all down the street, it is difficult for both cars and pedestrians to see each other until it is too late. According to Chuck Gantos, director of campus safety and police, Elon has no definite plans to do something about the intersection despite its history of danger and injury.

This crosswalk is just part of Elon's problem with pedestrians. The first part of this problem is the actions of the students. When many students cross the street, they do so with a sense of entitlement and an utter disregard for cars. Instead of looking both ways, most students, hurrying

to class, just walk out into the street.

These street-crossing practices have not gone unnoticed by Burlington residents. In a recent story done by Elon's multimedia journalism class, nearly all Burlington residents who were interviewed about Elon students mentioned they do not look when crossing the street.

The lack of sidewalks and bike paths is also part of the problem. According to Gantos, the Town of Elon and the university have developed a sidewalk plan, but this covers mostly South Campus, where few students venture regularly.

A larger sidewalk plan has been developed that would include bike paths and sidewalks throughout the Town of Elon, but this plan is expected to be implemented over the next 20 years meaning it would not be completed until 2029.

Instead of focusing on sidewalks, the university is currently building a railroad underpass for the hefty price of \$2.25 million. The plan, built in response to a suicide on the tracks, seems wasteful as few students actually cross the tracks.

As opposed to spending millions and creating a greater traffic problem on Williamson Avenue by closing two bypass roads for construction, the Town of Elon and the university should be building sidewalks and bike paths in areas that see more foot traffic.

Until they do, students who live on the east side of campus on Haggard Avenue have little choice but to walk or ride in the middle of the street.

TO COMMENT...

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

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

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

ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES:



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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Murdoch v. Google

Putting a price on Internet information



Eva Hill
Columnist

Rupert Murdoch, media entrepreneur and head of the global media company News Corporation Ltd., is considering removing news stories from Google in hope of encouraging users to pay for online content.

The idea of limiting free online news stories will ultimately make it more difficult for readers to access information from his news Web sites. But it's also a way to

increase company profits and prevent readers from accessing entire stories without paying for them.

The British newspapers the Sun, the Times and the American newspaper, the Wall Street Journal are three of the newspapers under Murdoch's control. By limiting the ability of Internet users to view stories from these sources, fewer people will read the content, especially considering Google accounts for approximately 84 percent of global search engine traffic.

Murdoch is considering all possible options before taking action. Limiting part or the entirety of an online story is tricky business. Limiting readership in any way and demanding a subscription fee or annual payment is likely to lead to a decrease in the number of readers who will turn to sites where the content is free.

With a 10 percent drop in tangible newspaper sales during the past year, the newspaper industry is fighting to stay alive. By offering the same content online for free, newspapers allow readers to browse stories at their convenience but forego the opportunity to make a profit.

Unfortunately for readers, newspapers are beginning to demand monetary compensation in order to provide total online access. For example, the Wall Street Journal charges for unlimited online news content loaded with special features, with digital subscriptions running from \$1.99 per week to \$108 a year.

In a recent research study conducted by the Boston Consulting Group, only 48 percent of people would be willing to pay for news stories online. The average amount those surveyed were willing to pay was only \$3 a month, which compares poorly to the weekly price of \$1.99 the Wall Street Journal charges for Web access.

Readers should not be selfish when it comes to paying for information. The value of being knowledgeable and well-informed surpasses the value of a few dollars a week. The consumers' willingness to pay reflects how important the news is to them, and judging by the statistics provided by the Boston Consulting Group, the importance is low. Although there are other ways of obtaining news, people should know who is providing the information and the credibility of that provider.

Many avid news followers find the idea of paying for news stories online unrealistic when it's possible to obtain free news stories from other sources. This is one problem Murdoch will face if his corporation decides to prevent articles from appearing on Google, because by searching through Google, it's possible to read the entire story instead of the brief synopsis one finds when searching on the Wall Street Journal Web site.

With the evolution of the Internet and the public's need for up-to-date information, readers appreciate the convenience of obtaining their news online.

But in order for this idea of subscription fees and annual payments to be fully effective, all news sources would need to limit or block their content until readers agreed to pay for it. It sounds extreme, but it's so easy for people to take advantage of the endless availability of free information on the Internet.

Murdoch's plan to block content from Google in response to the decline in newspaper sales is one way to increase profit.

If more online news sources decide to make a similar move, the availability of free online news is likely to diminish, but the revenues could save the news that remains afterward.

The right to choose wisely



Ashley Jobe
Columnist

Imagine a future where teenagers, under their parents insurance, could visit their pediatricians and arrange for an appointment with a gynecologist to undergo an abortion procedure — or where abortion procedures could be run through the health care system just like diabetes care, chemotherapy and liver transplants.

If new health care bills currently up for debate attempt to include abortion, that future may be closer to us than we think.

No child should be brought up in circumstances that are unfavorable to them, especially if the mother comes by pregnancy in a situation that involves non-consensual sex, or the pregnancy becomes a threat to a woman's life. But house legislation already requires health care plans the government subsidizes must cover abortions in cases of rape, incest and threats to the life of the mother.

The type of abortion we are talking about covering under insurance is the kind that results from accidental impregnation or poor planning on the part of two sexually active partners. It just doesn't seem fair — not for the mother-to-be or the potential child.

Regulations of procedures, substances and actions by our government that were once taboo don't always result in happy endings. There's little evidence lowering the drinking age to 18 is beneficial to the society we currently live in, nor would the legalization of marijuana solve all of the problems of poor decisions made under the influence of that particular mind-altering substance.

It's true — making the aforementioned substances legal eliminates the need for underground drug trafficking and secret consumption, but the disturbing elements that have forced their control up

to this point cannot be ignored. Of course, making those substances available to more people is not the same as condoning them. But in the case of abortion, could the same be said?

Could we really ensure that by covering such a controversial procedure in our insurance policies, we would not subconsciously be making abortion seem like a more attractive alternative to an unfavorable situation for an unprepared mother?

I will not even begin to breach the subject of where life begins here, but I will say that if a mother is given a drastic alternative every time a method of contraception fails, or sexual activity doesn't exactly go according to plan, our society could begin to tread an extremely fine line.

What if every couple that engaged in intercourse was actually prepared to be parents? The possibility just isn't considered in every case, which is the problem here. If they aren't ready, they shouldn't have sex. Either that, or perhaps using multiple methods of contraception could be their first option. Prevention is always better than the cure.

A bipartisan House coalition agrees: an amendment by Rep. Bart Stupak of Michigan in a 240-194 vote clinched the prohibition of the coverage of abortions in a government-run health care plan.

"Let us stand together on principle — no public funding for abortions, no public funding for insurance policies that pay for abortions," Stupak said prior to the vote.

Among a number of details and fine print, another underlying issue here remains that people abiding by both the public and private insurance options could potentially be paying tax dollars for abortions.

Amid rumors the new public option bill will allow for the coverage of abortions in its specifications, President Barack Obama has assured the American public that talk of the government funding abortions is "not true." Thank goodness.

The Opinions podcast

Obama goes to Asia.

Harry Potter gets high.

And Palin goes away (if only).

MORE
ONLINE

Moving past the massacre



Ryan Maass
Columnist

Nidal Malik Hasan has become a household name after the massacre in Fort Hood on Nov. 5. Wielding two handguns of an unknown origin, Hasan's shooting rampage led to the deaths of 13 Americans in Fort Hood and left at least 43 wounded. While pundits and politicians argue about whether this should be considered an act of domestic terrorism or a mere "crime," the scenarios and factors surrounding the incident

can help us see the bigger picture of what the war in the Middle East has become.

Make no mistake, there is compelling evidence to suggest Hasan was in close contact with a radical Muslim cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki, thought to be a recruiter for al-Qaida and has voiced his dissatisfaction with being deployed against his Muslim brethren. Witnesses reported that Hasan was chanting as he shot down innocent Americans in Fort Hood. The fact of the matter is that Hasan acted in the name of jihad and should be considered a terrorist. But as America mourns the loss of 13 innocent soldiers and prays for the wellness of those family and friends affected by this act of terrorism, what does this tell us about the mentality of our enemies?

Witnesses who knew Hasan reported he had been upset about his imminent deployment to Afghanistan and did not like the idea of Muslims fighting other Muslims. It is not yet known to what extent Hasan was in communication with the radical cleric, but if his idea was influenced by al-Awlaki or others, then the ideology is laid flat on the table. One of the popular slogans of jihad is to remove Western infidels from Muslim lands.

Those attracted to the terrorist groups are drawn in by the sense of religious community and are led to believe the community is threatened by the military presence of the United States and other countries in "Muslim lands" — namely Afghanistan. These terrorists groups also believe they are killing for a just cause, and condemn the western lifestyle for being too permissive of social status and other personal liberties, such as gender equality.

In many ways, this is a war of cultural values. Groups like the Taliban and al-Qaida value the more traditional social infrastructure of Afghanistan where women are seen as subservient items rather than as equals to men and where governance is implemented through militant force rather than through democratic principles.

Muslim extremists twist the mean of Islam, submission to Allah's will, to meaning the submission of freedom to those in control. These values unite groups like the Taliban and al-Qaida under a very jingoistic sense of pride. Did Hasan learn values such as these from the cleric he was in contact with? Was this ultimately what drove him to senseless murder in Fort Hood? Are there any more Hasans in our military who share the same ideals and will use similar means to express them to the world?

These questions may be answered soon, as Hasan is set to face the death penalty in a military court. Awareness of the war in the Middle East could not have come at a better time. Currently, President Barack Obama's administration faces an important decision of how to finalize the conflict in Afghanistan. Will the president aid our forces on the ground with additional troops?

The facts are simple. Al-Qaida and the Taliban are not invincible. Muslim extremists who manipulate a religion of peace and enlightenment must be stopped so no more Americans — or people of any nationality — fall victim to their twisted agenda. Regardless of how people ultimately interpret the incident at Fort Hood, it is safe to assume no rational person in the White House or elsewhere wants to see history repeat itself.

Where the streets have no blogs ...

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Style



MORE ONLINE

LEFT: Sweet Signatures sophomore member Amy McNabb joins senior Chris Beeson in singing "A Whole New World" as part of "The Disney Medley." The medley includes selections from "Pinocchio," "A Goofy Movie," "The Lion King," "Mulan," "The Little Mermaid," "Hercules" and "Aladdin." RIGHT: Senior Josh Tate sings "Change Your Mind" during Rip_Chord's fall concert in Whitley Auditorium.



Freshman Aaron Summers leads Rip_Chord in its encore song, "It's My Life," arranged by Beeson. During the past month, Rip_Chord has learned six new songs.

Real men of Rip_Chord

Ashley Barnas
Online Editor-In-Chief

Rip_Chord busted out a new cast of men during its fall concert in Whitley Auditorium last weekend.

"All the new songs sounded wonderful," senior member Josh Tate said. "We have six new guys. I can't tell you how awesome they are. And they sounded great. I can't ask for anything more being a senior and transitioning out."

The final song of the concert, "Hollywood's Not America," is a favorite of the guys. It's sung by new member freshman Bert Brokaw.

"Bert is great," Tate said. "And to have that kind of freshman talent, we're just really lucky."

The background is a hard arrangement for the guys to learn, Beeson said, which gets into really advanced a cappella. But it's a challenge the group is facing head-on this semester.



LEFT: Sophomore and new member Turner Rouse beat boxes during his first concert with Rip_Chord.

ABOVE: Freshman Bert Brokaw sings "Hollywood's Not America," a new song in the Rip_Chord repertoire. "Basically, none of the other songs that I wanted to audition for were in my range because I'm a bass," Brokaw said. He said he recently learned how to arrange music so he's hoping to do that more often.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW



Dancing in the Black Box entertains audiences

Rachel Southmayd
Reviewer

Reflections bouncing off mirrors, mathematical inspired numbers and reinterpretations of classic dance techniques defined Elon's fall dance concert, *Dancing in the Black Box*. The show, which ran Nov. 12-14, shaped the performances around the theme "Innovative choreography/creative space."

To many, this may be a daunting phrase that brings to mind performances far too deep or "out there" to be enjoyed by the general public. But in all actuality, the show provided entertaining pieces that were intriguing in a mostly understandable way.

The rather brief show included eight numbers, each distinct in style, costume and form. It was just the right length so the audience didn't get bored, but still felt like they had viewed a wide variety of pieces.

The first was a ballet piece titled "The Presentation" performed by four girls, all of whom had strong technique. They all played the part of ballerina well, with pretty buns, pointe shoes and smiles.

It was within this first number that one thing became clear about this type of show. While a *Black Box* performance allows for greater intimacy between the dancer and the audience, it reveals sins that a large theater and elevated proscenium stage forgive



Dancers rehearsed heavily in the weeks leading up to the fall dance concert, "Dancing in the Black Box." The show demonstrated the dancing and choreography skills of students in eight distinct numbers.

CYNTRA BROWN | Photographer

— like loose fifth position coming out of a pirouette or, even more noticeably, heaving breaths toward the end of a particularly aerobic number.

Seeing these mess-ups ruined the illusion of the performance in several cases, particularly in the demanding first number.

The second piece, "Scribbling Women," differed greatly from the first. Three dancers portrayed three different female American authors struggling with their own identities in an eclectic mix of text and music from

each of their particular cultures.

Following was a great contemporary piece called "Vanity," where soloist senior Rachael Fine did a brilliant job leading the four supporting dancers in a meaningful and dynamic piece that included three large mirrors.

Then came "Hendiartis," a rather bizarre "techno ballet." One man and two women mixed traditional ballet movement with jazz-inspired flexions and other "violations" of traditional

ballet technique.

Two more contemporary pieces followed. The first, "Water's Edge," was set to the type of music heard in a spa, with rushing waters and crashing waves. It was very serene and beautifully executed. The next, "Called to Freedom," was a personal favorite of the night, demonstrating the six female dancers' amazing strength. Their ability to attack movement should be admired by all.

The last two numbers, "(9-5) 7x40=365" and

"Akasha," were the only two dances in the show that weren't easily understood. "(9-5)" was danced well and with great conviction from soloist sophomore Elizabeth Federowicz, but it wasn't easy to follow the message of the piece or understand the math in the title.

"Akasha's" intent was coherent, but the connections between the movement (which did feature some incredible lifts and acrobatic feats), the costuming (loose white pants with nude leotards and difficult-to-see symbols of the five elements) and the use of both a recorded track and live musicians was lost. In all fairness, the piece is a "work in progress," and it will be interesting to view it at the spring dance concert, "Elements."

Overall, the weaknesses in "Dancing in the Black Box" were in the loose ends that never quite got tied up. Things like lipstick color, mismatched earrings, elastic hair ties left on wrists, varieties in length of shorts and inconsistencies among recordings used in the performance can really make a difference to an audience member.

The details can really elevate a show to a whole new level, and this show was almost there thanks to some excellent technique and an obvious passion for the physical act of dance that radiated from the dancers themselves.

HOT AIR? Opens up, up and away

Lauren Ramsdell
Reporter

Students, parents and faculty braved the remnants of tropical storm Ida last Thursday to attend the opening reception for the Student Juried Exhibition, "Hot Air?"

The theme of the exhibition encouraged students to think outside of the traditional art "box" and to make art that is not "hot air," but that means more than just a painting or sculpture.

"Hot Air?" includes artwork from Elon students, all hand-selected by an independent jury of three graduate students from UNC Chapel Hill. The jury cut the artwork down from about 80 to 90 submissions to more than 45 pieces now hanging in the Arts West gallery space.

Members of the ART 380 Professional Practice class organized and ran the event with coaching from their professor, Michael Fels.

"This is an opportunity for the students to prepare for their thesis show at the end of the year," Fels said.

He also commented that students naturally gravitate to the part of the event that most appeals to what they want to do upon graduation, from curatorial work to designing the gallery space to helping organize other artists into a collective group.

"It's a good way to build up a resume," Fels said.

Senior Monica Huang was coordinator of the jury committee, charged with finding the three jurors to judge the artwork.

"I didn't really know what it would look like in the end," she said. "But we're all really happy with how it turned out."

The jurors selected the top three artworks. First place went to junior Mark Capozzola for his photograph "Car Ride," second place was awarded to Huang for her sculpture "Claybodies" and third went to junior Kalin Allen for her mixed-media piece "Tree Study."

Capozzola said he was surprised at his selection.

"It's an honor to even be included, much less win," he said.

His inspiration for his photograph came from research into photographers like Jeff Wall.

"A lot of my photographs have to do with open-ended narratives," Capozzola said.



LAUREN RAMSDELL | Photographer

Senior Monica Huang took second place in the juried art show for her ceramic sculpture, "Claybodies."

He said his photography invites the onlooker in to make up a story of his or her own. Capozzola won \$50 for his entry.

In addition to the prize winners, there were three honorable mentions. Junior Joanna Patterson was named for her entry "Perspective," and fellow junior Chase Brannock was selected for "Cold War Americana." Senior Will Rusch was named for his submission "Receipt," a copy of the receipt for the \$5 donation he made to "Hot Air?"

Reception-goers also had an opportunity to vote for "Viewer's Choice." Senior Travis Butler won for an eerie and interactive installation of found objects and textiles titled "Penetration, as caused by the restrictive codes of social pressures."

The jurors could not attend the reception, but they left a statement on the doors to the gallery. They said the selection process was difficult because of the volume of talent generated by Elon students.

"The students' art truly rose beyond the expected," the statement read.

"Hot Air?" will be in Arts West until Dec. 1 and is open to the public.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 Winner of 49 Pulitzer Prizes
- 16 Diner order
- 17 200-mph swooper
- 18 Menu items
- 19 Nutrient in lentils
- 20 MLB stat
- 21 Peel
- 22 Loyal subject
- 24 Premiere arrival
- 25 Lines on "ER"?
- 26 Break down
- 27 General drift
- 28 Gem feature
- 29 Heavy
- 30 Fans of the bulldog
- Handsome Dan
- 32 Like much wage discrimination
- 33 Generous types
- 34 Beau
- 35 Clearances
- 36 Doesn't stay put
- 37 Sallie ___
- 40 Sake brewer's need
- 41 Overcharge
- 42 ___ Corners
- 43 Sermon ending?
- 44 Cotillard's Oscar-winning role
- 45 Eponymous Italian physicist
- 46 Two-generation groups
- 50 State collections

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51 Some decks

- 1 Have high hopes
- 2 Change
- 3 Java wrap
- 4 Standing up
- 5 Bummed things, briefly
- 6 Country on the Medit.
- 7 Sushi staple
- 8 Tops in chic
- 9 Appear
- 10 "Captain Singleton" author
- 11 Outline
- 12 Xmas visitor, say
- 13 Some Rembrandts
- 14 Make a dramatic exit

15 Tactile, e.g.

- 22 Velcro alternative
- 23 Red states?
- 24 Ushered
- 26 Not very strong hands
- 27 Airport lineup
- 28 Two-time heavyweight champ Patterson
- 29 New York mayor before Koch
- 30 Highest rank in sumo
- 31 "The ___ of Confucius"
- 32 Loot
- 33 Patron saint of astronomers
- 34 Fluffy fare

36 Obviously enjoy, as humor

- 37 Quad Cities city
- 38 Stylish filmmaker
- 39 Removes, in a way
- 41 Huge
- 42 "The Unit" actor Scott
- 44 Nice old man?
- 45 Bounty rival
- 47 ___ Fauves: Matisse group
- 48 Grünwald associate
- 49 Filmmaker Brooks

NEW ON WSOE

Tune into The Pendulum on WSOE from 3-4 p.m. Thursdays.

MEDIUM

- Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers — *The Bear*
- Vision — *7 Shades of Wrong*
- Argyle Johansen — *Argyle Johansen*
- Art Decade — *Royalty EP*

HEAVY

- Gov't Mule — *By A Thread*
- We All Have Hooks for Hands — *The Shape Of Energy*
- White Denim — *Fits*

LOCAL

- Shakermaker — *Shakermaker*
- Mad Tea Party — *Found a Reason*
- Scientific Superstar — *Doomed Lucky Day EP*

Making a mockery of the opponent

Gabriela Szewcow
Design Intern

A deck of cards isn't a staple in the court room, but it was during Elon Mock Trial's invitational this weekend at Tennessee State University.

An opposing team focused its case around an elaborate gambling theme, as this was the motive of the team's defendant.

As the team gave its closing arguments, it pulled out a deck of cards. The cards were used to symbolize its "full hand" in terms of evidence, and the supposed "bluffing" on Elon Mock Trials part.

Senior Mock Trial President Kate Hopkins proceeded to take the opposing team's cards, toss them to the ground, and tell them that while they had a good poker face, the opposing council simply left the court with a game of 52-pick up. The judges and the opposing team were speechless.

One of Elon's teams placed seventh at the tournament at Tennessee State University this weekend, and Hopkins and senior Mandy Morrissey received individual outstanding attorney awards for leaving the opposing team to a game of 52 pick-up. The previous weekend, the team competed in an invitational at Duke University.

Elon Mock Trial is a way for students to gain insight into the world of law by actively taking part in a simulated trial as an attorney or a witness. The team of 23 students received a case from the American Mock Trial Association in late August and have been practicing ever since.

There were 13 new additions to the team this year, eight of which were freshmen and five of which were upperclassmen. There are a variety of different majors on the Mock Trial team. It is not limited to law students.

"We have everything from communications to human services majors (on the team)," Hopkins said. "It also is great for any public speakers or acting students. There is no pre-law requirement, and while it does look great on a law school resume, the speaking skills are so valuable that anyone could benefit from it."

The team, like other mock trial teams across the country, uses the same case throughout the course of the year. The team practices on Thursday and Sunday evenings. Closer to competitions, it holds additional practices on Tuesday nights. Each practice usually lasts an hour and a half to two hours.

"It's quite time-consuming," freshman Andrew Stevenson said. "We meet twice or three times a week, and a lot of preparation goes into each competition."

Stevenson just joined the team this year. He spends a great deal of his free time preparing for Mock Trial, but he said the amount of practice is necessary in order for the team to be successful at competitions.

In addition to weekly practices, witnesses and attorneys meet separately to go over specific parts, and members put in their own individual preparation, which involves extensive writing and rehearsing.

And Hopkins said the work is never done.



Mock trial teammates Kate Hopkins, Jon Keller, Allison Carter and Lauren Nicholas prepare their case at the Mock Trial Championships in Easton, Pa.

"Even at the competitions, we usually have the trials over two days, so we spend the night in between practicing and rearranging our case in hopes of scoring better the next day," she said.

This year, Elon's case is about "a business partnership gone wrong." Three best friends founded a production company called Trifecta Entertainment. But when the three get a deal to sell the company, Jacob Bennett, the partner who owns the largest percentage of the company, doesn't want to sell the company and refuses the deal.

Bennett goes missing the day before the company's meeting in which they were to deliver a final answer to the offer. Bennett is eventually found dead. In the case, the court looks at both partners to determine which one was responsible for Bennett's disappearance. One partner has the means and the opportunity, while the other has the motive.

The team has what Hopkins describes as "an intense Hollywood mystery" on its hands.

In each trial simulation, there are three prosecution attorneys, three defense attorneys, three prosecution witnesses and three defense witnesses. Generally, the school that holds the competition provides a judge for the case. The judge is usually a volunteer law student or a local attorney.

Each participant is scored individually on his or her performance. The individual scores are added into a team score, which is determined by combining scores from eight different judges.

Teams have to know their cases well, because at competitions, they have to be prepared to play either the prosecution or defense. Competitions mimic the normal proceedings of a courtroom, with six-minute opening statements from each side, three witnesses cross-examined by each side and nine-minute closing arguments to sum up the case.

This year, Elon Mock Trial will be losing three seniors, but Hopkins said she has high hopes for the team's future.

"I would hope to see my team progress to the National Finals," she said. "While that is reasonable for this year, we are also working on getting two teams to progress from the regional tournaments in February to the semi-finals."

Midnight meals challenges students' fifth grade knowledge

Brittany Washington
Reporter

By the time students reach college, it is assumed they have basic grade school knowledge under control. When asked the question many Elon students would agree they are "smarter than a fifth grader." Last Thursday this assumption was challenged at Midnight Meals.

For the week's entertainment, Zeta Phi Beta hosted the game "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" The sorority said it anticipated a large crowd and got it. Four individuals and one duo came to test their elementary level knowledge.

Senior Alex O'Neal took on the challenge first. She scored \$1,000 with the correct answer to the true or false question, "Are birds mammals?" O'Neal seemed to breeze through the questions and made it to \$25,000, but she flunked out on a \$50,000 question about pottery glaze.

Next up was freshman Rachel Wilson. When Midnight Meals' free food, chicken nuggets and French fries arrived, the large crowd wasn't too busy eating to help Wilson earn \$1,000 by providing her with the French word for five. From there, she made her way to the \$5,000 question.

Wilson's question was, "What female animal is called a doe?" To many people's surprise "deer" was not listed as a possible answer. Wilson guessed camel but asked for her save to be used. The save kept her in the game. Rabbit was the correct answer.

"Who knows that a female rabbit is called a doe?" Wilson said after her turn. "Second graders don't know that."

Wilson flunked out on a \$10,000 question about the amount of coins needed to make 99 cents.

Junior Dan Glass made it up to \$175,000 with the crowd's help on a few questions about taxonomy and math. He flunked out going for the \$500,000 question, "In the Dewey Decimal System, what numbers are the art and music books?"

"It was fun," Glass said. "It was fun because everyone was helping. You weren't just by yourself."

Freshman Ashley Fritz cruised her way to \$10,000. She used a save to get past a literature question about Hans Christian Anderson fairy tales and reached \$25,000. Fritz made her way to the \$500,000 question of "Which Native American Tribe was not part of the Iroquois Confederacy?" With the crowd's help she made her way to the final, \$1 million question.

Fritz's final question was, "What is the capital of Switzerland?" There were no multiple choices. It was fill-in-the-blank. The crowd suggested Geneva and Bern. She chose Bern and became the first winner of the night.

The final contestants of the night were freshmen duo Will Brummett and Lindsay Swenson. They maneuvered through each question and only stumbled on one for \$500,000. The question was, "On what scale does all molecular motion stop at 273 degrees below zero?" The crowd offered Celsius as an answer.

Brummett and Swenson said Celsius and moved on to the \$1,000,000 question.

Their final question was, "Where would you find the headwaters of the Missouri River?" Neither Brummett, Swenson nor the crowd knew the answer. Determined to win the game, Brummett asked someone with a laptop to look it up. The answer, Montana, was found on Wikipedia.

"I learned that anyone can be smarter than a fifth grader with Wikipedia," Brummett said.

Both the contestants and audience members said they enjoyed the night's activities.

"It's very nice to be able to unwind at Midnight Meals with a fun game like 'Are you Smarter than a 5th grader?'" freshman Jess Mara Jordan said.

Freshman Deanna Fox said she agreed.

"Midnight Meals is always a great time to chill and eat free food," she said.

The night wasn't strictly all fun and games though. As a part of its Prematurity Awareness Week, Zeta Phi Beta, represented by Jackie Koehn, provided facts about prematurity in between contestants. Some facts were that in this month alone, 45,000 thousand babies will be born prematurely, and in 2005 the United States spent \$26.2 billion on premature babies.

Koehn asked students to offer their support to the March of Dimes, an organization created to help stop prematurity.

FASHION NOW: CURRENT & LOCAL inspirations IN FASHION

Alexandra Johnston
Fashion Columnist

While Elon isn't exactly the fashion capital of the world, there are still many easy ways to get a fashion fix without traveling to New York or Paris. Here is a list of current fashion blogs, books, movies and exhibits worth checking out.

The Sartorialist: Created by photographer Scott Schuman, The Sartorialist is a blog that features pictures of real people's style. Schuman travels to



Alexandra Johnston
Fashion Columnist

cities such as New York, London, Paris and Milan, among others, to find the best or most interesting styles from around the world. After working 15 years in the fashion industry, Schuman began this blog as a way to bring together the fashion industry and what people were wearing

in real life. In addition, Schuman has just released an accompanying book of street style photographs bearing the same name.

Lookbook.nu: Claiming to be the world's largest source of fashion inspiration, this user generated Web site features daily fashion inspiration from young people. Contributors to the site include photographers, models, designers, students and others from as close as North Carolina to as far away as Moscow.

"A Guide to Quality, Taste and Style": A step-by-step guide from "Project Runway's" fashion guru Tim Gunn. In this book, Gunn shows readers how to detox their closets and wardrobes and find personal styles that work. It is full of witty phrases and so much voice that Gunn may as well be holding a conversation with the reader. In addition to helping the reader discover personal style, the book dictates how to shop, dress and act for every occasion.

"Coco Avant Chanel": Released April 2009 in France, the long awaited Coco Chanel movie has finally hit the states. This film, starring renowned French actress Audrey Tautou, tells the life story of the woman who would become one of the most famous designers in the history of fashion. Chanel revolutionized the role of women through her employment of unconventional designs and jersey fabrics that allowed women to enter the workforce. She is also known for the invention of the now undeniable classic - the little black dress. It is presented in French with English subtitles and is currently playing in Greensboro at Carousel Cinemas 15.

"The September Issue": Loved but feared, Anna Wintour is one of the most influential faces in fashion worldwide. As editor-in-chief of American "Vogue," she controls what the industry buys and creates every season. This documentary film goes behind the scenes during the making of the September issue of "Vogue." Viewers will be allowed to glimpse production from the beginning with fashion shows around the world all the way until printing of the final product. The film is currently in limited release.

Mint Museum: Located in Charlotte, N.C., the Mint Museum houses not only vast amount of historic and modern art, but it is currently home to two fashion exhibits. The first, "The Art of Affluence: Haute Couture and Luxury Fashions," is a compilation of donated garments from the last 50 years in fashion. Outfits are displayed on mannequins and range from casual, everyday looks, to stunning full-skirted ball gowns.

The second exhibit, "The Heights of Fashion: Platform Shoes Then and Now," features footwear from the 1930s and on. Some are practical and others look not of this world, but they are all fascinating and enjoyable. The Mint Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday and offers student tickets for \$8.

Next time fashion comes calling, be sure to check out all the resources located right in Elon's backyard.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Mellow out at the newest pizza joint in town

Bonnie Efrid
Reviewer

At the new Mellow Mushroom in Burlington, the restaurant slogan “happiness as expressed in pizza” is proven right.

Since its opening Nov. 9, Mellow Mushroom has been jam-packed with hungry customers. Unlike most chain restaurants, Mellow Mushroom is unique and rather groovy, especially for the small Southern town of Burlington.

Just in the last few days, Mellow Mushroom has proven to be exactly what Burlington needs, as evidenced by wait times lasting up to two hours.

Psychedelic gnomes and hipster dwarves cover the colorful walls of the redesigned restaurant, taking customers on a journey back to the 1970s. This is nothing the local Cracker Barrel or Chili’s will have.

Don’t be too distracted by the funky, colorful murals or the waiters’ tie-dyed aprons, though. Mellow Mushroom has much more to offer than its hippie-style flare.

Mellow Mushroom calls its Beer Club “something to talk about” with more than 50 beers offered, many of which are available on draft. This will keep the of-age Elon students happy, and those who aren’t will be counting down the days.

How about some mouth-watering pretzels with that draft? These warm, doughy and delicious pretzels will leave diners wanting more, until you can’t manage to button your jeans. The Parmesan and butter pretzels are the perfect salty appetizers, while the cinnamon pretzels are great for those who have a sweet tooth. Neither will disappoint. For “carboholics,” the dough melts in your mouth and hits the spot.

Although the spinach side salad was nothing to call home about, all the ingredients were fresh and well presented.

But the pizza is another story. It may not be off the streets of New York, but it sure is delicious.

The buffalo chicken pizza, with grilled chicken, sweet sautéed onions, bacon, cheese and hot sauce was to die for. Perfectly spicy, yet not too hot, the crust was just as good as the pretzels.

Although the restaurant has been busy, the service has not suffered by any means. The waiters are relatively laid back but on-the-ball and willing to recommend specialties if asked.

Walking through the restaurant, it seems that Mellow Mushroom has already become a popular hang out for Elon students, just as it was back in 1974 when three college students opened the first Mellow Mushroom at



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
After months of anticipation, Mellow Mushroom opened Nov. 9 near the Best Western on Huffman Mill Road. It has been filled with patrons since it opened.

Georgia Tech University.

What sets this pizza joint apart from the typical California Pizza Kitchen or Domino’s, is the fact that each Mellow Mushroom is locally owned and operated, which allows each location to be unique and eccentric in its own way. Throughout the years, it seems as though Mellow Mushroom has held itself to high standards in the restaurant business,

providing its customers with a fun atmosphere, scrumptious food and a bountiful bar.

Despite its location off of Huffman Mill Road, Mellow Mushroom remains unique and fun, and does its best not to blend in with the monotonous chain restaurants that surround it.

Go, eat and enjoy. As they say at Mellow Mushroom, peace, love and pizza.

GAME REVIEW



‘Origins’ is originally for PC, and it shows

Jon Moore
Reviewer

It should be made clear this is a review specifically of the console version of “Dragon Age: Origins.” It is a good game. It is a great game, but it is obviously a PC game and not easily translated to consoles.

PC games cannot be rented (for the purpose of review), and Dragon Age unfortunately suffers because of this.

Because college students don’t usually have the specs to run games as large as “Dragon Age” on their laptops, there are a few things consumers definitely need to be aware of before buying this console version.

“Dragon Age” was developed by the RPG veterans at BioWare, who fans may recognize as the developers of classic role-playing titles like the “Baldur’s Gate” series, “Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic” and the recent 2007 hit “Mass Effect.”

While the story plays like J.R.R. Tolkien’s take on the “Mass Effect” arc (replace “Spectre” with “Grey Warden” and the alien races with various iterations of dwarves, elves and demons), the gameplay secures “Origins” as the spiritual successor to “Baldur’s Gate.”

Or rather, it does on the PC, when not trying to work around the ill-fitted Xbox control scheme.

This is not meant to be a jab at either “Dragon Age” or Xbox, but “Origins” was clearly meant to be played as what might be called a real-time strategy RPG. The player is expected to formulate strategies to deal with large waves of imposing foes and issue commands to the various members of their parties accordingly, and the console versions do not make this easy.

Game actions can be accessed mid-battle with a radial wheel through which one can issue very basic party commands or use skills, buffs or potions, etc. The player can also switch control between party-members at any point, but unlike PC players, console players have no means of pausing the action to individually instruct their party members, nor can they choose what specific target they’d like to attack or at what point on the map to stand.

Both of these are such detractions to those who’d like to effectively use ranged characters that the game can become nearly unplayable during large strategic battle sequences.

To enjoy the console versions, the only option is to play the game with a warrior character, as if it were an action hack and slash, while relying on the computer AI to take care of the rest of the party. It really can be a fun experience, but for a game that can deliver



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMERNODE.COM
“Origins” was created for a PC, but was recently released for Xbox consoles.

on truly deep character classing and strategy, it feels like a massive waste of resources and a real disappointment.

The disappointment is compounded by the real joy of “Origins” intricate and variable story. Depending on each created character’s race and class, the story begins in one of six completely different ways. These are the titular “Origin” stories, and events that occur within them will continue to be important throughout the main story arc. The place players begin will even affect how characters throughout the game react to the conversation.

Once again, BioWare’s writing and incredibly customizable story are the major strengths at play here. They’ve done away with the archaic “Good/Evil” continuum and replaced it with a more logical system wherein certain decisions will have reasonable consequences later in the game. Saving a nobleman’s son from torture won’t get you any points toward “being good,” for example, but if you do so, his family might owe you a favor you can claim later in the game.

If you enjoy RPGs and have the technology to run it on a PC, you will not regret buying this game for a second. But those who are dedicated console players, will find that “Dragon Age: Origins” on the Xbox and PS3 cannot deliver quite the same experience.

CD REVIEW



Robbie Williams’ new release acts as an atypical pop album

Christina Edwards
Reviewer

In a world where top-40 radio hits have people conditioned to recognize pop music as mindless, albeit occasionally fun, variations upon a theme, British pop star Robbie Williams’ latest offering, “Reality Killed the Video Star,” might come as a shock to the system.

Despite being a former member of British 90s boy band Take That (he left the group in 1995 to launch his solo career), his work in the last 15 years has shown a sense of ingenuity and a penchant for constant reinvention rarely found anymore on the major labels. “Reality Killed the Video Star,” which is his eighth solo album, is no exception to this rule.

Williams, has yet to gain an incredibly strong notoriety in the United States but is probably best known for his 1999 single “Angels,” still clearly has something to say and a point of view to express, even after being in the industry for nearly two decades. This album features Williams’ signature insightful irreverence for the mainstream point of view and an impressively cohesive smorgasbord of musical influences and allusions.

The album opens with “Morning Sun” and closes with a reprise of the song, a full-circle move that nicely pulls the whole thing together. The song, a lyrical reference and tribute to Michael Jackson, is a somber and jarring take on the reality of loneliness in fame: “You always wanted more than life/ But now you don’t have the appetite/ In a message to the troubadour/ The world don’t love you anymore.” The lyrics are in a pleasant juxtaposition to the soaring, bright orchestrations.

Williams continues to mix and modernize genres throughout the album, creating an eclectic collection of

perspectives. The track “You Know Me” is layered with an old-school, Frankie Valli nostalgic sound and mixed with a much fuller orchestration coming out of the chorus. The lyrics mix a 50s heartthrob simplicity with occasional literary genius as he throws in a refreshing bout of alliteration.

Williams goes on to tackle the dance beats in the vaguely dark “Last Days of Disco,” overlaying a stereotypical disco sound with modern electro beat in what becomes surprising aural ear candy.

Williams proves his versatility, as that track doesn’t seem at all out of place on the same album as the drum-heavy, catchy rock beat of “Do You Mind?” The repetitive, forward-moving melody is enough to earn the song multiple plays, but coupled with the opening tongue-in-cheek “this is a song about metaphors,” it easily transitions from fun to borderline intuitive genius.

The lyrics hit hard and pack a punch throughout the album. A pop album may be slightly better served with a side of mindless fun, but this is already so far from a typical pop album it’s more than forgivable. The album is so littered with lyrical gems it’s hard to pick a standout, but Williams manages to be insightful without being overwhelming or cryptically trying too hard.

Williams manages to capture his wide-ranging perspective in a nutshell in “Difficult for Weirdos” — “I like it different/I like it strange/In my own way/I haven’t changed.”

Each song is worth listening to as its own complete, inspired entity. There’s not a hint of filler or repetition to be found. With “Reality Killed the Video Star,” Williams has managed to create something that entertains with the capability of making the listener feel something, while retaining his unique point of view and musically taking himself — and the listener — somewhere new.

Get a CLUE, Elon: RSA hosts first campus-wide murder mystery

Kassondra Cloos
Reporter

Dozens of students — many dressed in unusual attire — scurried between multiple buildings on campus last Thursday despite the inclement weather.

This year, instead of continuing with the tradition of “Where’s Waldo” as RSA has done in previous years, sophomore RSA programmers Addie Carr and Ericka Bentson wanted to try something new. It was then that Elon’s first campus-wide, live-action game of Clue was born.

“Where’s Waldo’ hadn’t gone over well in the past,” Bentson said. “We wanted to create some new excitement.”

Carr said the idea for a campus-wide game of Clue was mentioned by faculty adviser Monet Thomas, who turned the project over to the RSA programmers.

“We literally had to come up with it from scratch,” Carr said. “We looked on the Internet and didn’t see anything we liked. We wanted it all across campus.”

“We thought it would be more fun with people and places that students recognized,” Bentson said.

At the start of the game, students in teams of three to six were each given a sheet of paper with a certain number of people, places and weapons checked off, just like in the real game. Teams could get up to two extra “cards” by dressing up and bringing canned goods to support Loaves and Fishes, a local food ministry.

Just like the board game, participants needed to run back and forth between buildings, including Acorn, Alamance and Belk Library, in order to get clues from the witnesses. While it was ultimately concluded the perpetrator was “Smith Jackson, at the McMichael bus stop, with the crown,” other suspects included the homecoming



Freshman RSA Student Executive Board Member Christine Conti checks sophomores Angela Muntean and Jenny Austin’s guess sheet in RSA’s campus wide game of Clue.

queen, President Leo Lambert and Eddie from Acorn.

Prizes for the first three teams to correctly guess the scenario were \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively.

“It was disgusting and rainy, and I was all muddy and wet, but it was totally worth it,” said freshman Emily Buehler, one of the six people on the winning team. “It was hard to communicate with so many people because we weren’t always completely positive what was going on, but we would just talk it out and run as fast as we could.”

Freshman Emma Zoghlin, from the same team, said there was a lot of trust among team members involved the process.

“Actually being the characters was way more fun than just playing the board game,” freshman Molly Dougherty said.

Freshman Lea Abel said she agreed. “I had expected to just play Clue on a big board, and then I found out that we were going to be running around in the rain and mud,” she said. “It was intense.”

Both Carr and Bentson said the event went extremely well, especially for a first-year program.

“I was worried that we would forget one little thing, but it went really smoothly and there were no glitches,” Bentson said.

Although the girls had been most worried about publicizing the event, boards in the dining halls, flyers distributed to RAs and digital display boards in Moseley aided in getting 40 teams to sign up for the event — much more than the 15 they had hoped for. The organizers were also worried the weather would be a deterrent, losing as many as half their participants, but 24 teams showed up to play, drawing a crowd of 95 participants.

“This was one of the first huge programs this year, and I can definitely see it as an Elon tradition,” Bentson said. “Clue had way more participants than ‘Where’s Waldo,’ and people were so dedicated.”

Organic gardens provide earthy sanctuary for all ages

Julie Cerick
Reporter

Imagine a place where peace and tranquility with the Earth is right at one’s fingertips — a place where one digs into the ground with bare hands and pulls out plants that were planted with the same care and dedication used to retrieve them.

Fifteen minutes from Elon, such a place exists. The 165-acre Center for Education, Imagination and the Natural World in Whittsett teaches visitors to connect with the Earth and “change the world from a commodity to be used to a sacred reality to be venerated,” according to the center’s Web site.

Each semester, the center takes one paid intern and numerous students who contribute work for credit hours at Elon.

The center has remained a little-known commodity in most of the community, but classes like environmental ethics, environmental literature and the philosophy of education have been visiting the sanctuary for years.

“I have had such fantastic experiences with Elon students,” Garden Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Bisdee said. “All of the people who come through here radiate out the mission of our work in their own way.”

Elon alumna Beth Sherron graduated in May 2007 and had the unique experience of interning at the center while she was a student. As an elementary education major, Sherron had a passion for working with children and the outdoors.

“The land provides a magical place where people just naturally unwind and see life in the larger picture,” Sherron said. “The center focuses on connecting the humans with nature in a way that helps them see that everyone is relative and that in order to live sustainably and happily on the earth together, we need to work as a community rather than with one dominating the other.”

The center was established as a nonprofit organization in March 2000

in a public/private partnership with Timberlake Farm. The programs for children and young adults have served more than 6,000 people from more than 50 schools since its inception.

The center provides programs for children and adults that teach how to connect and appreciate the beauty of the earth. The garden is just one part of the overall program involving children and educators.

“The Magical Garden,” as center employees call it, is small and hosts sections for everything, from medicinal herbs to potatoes.

“When people come, they do seasonal garden tasks,” Bisdee said. “I love this time of year in the garden — clearing out the old and bringing in the new.”

This is Bisdee’s sixth year as the volunteer coordinator, and she said student jobs in previous years have ranged from making a detailed guide for the plants to studying the medicinal uses of certain plants.

During Sherron’s internship, she completed Earth Guide training, led earth walks with kids, used the nature trails to develop personal communion with nature and helped plant and maintain plants in the garden.

“Reconnecting children is at the heart of our mission, and it stems from the growing divide between children and the world today,” Bisdee said.

She said most children who visit have not been exposed to nature the way many children used to be.

“Just today, we were picking out pine cones, and most of the kids had never seen a pine cone in their lives,” Bisdee said. “If it continues, children will have no love and it will contribute more to problems that we have today.”

Bisdee said the center’s programs have been greatly beneficial to the children who visit.

“The children are so thoroughly delighted to be in the garden because when they dig things up, they have no idea some of these things came from the ground,” Bisdee said. “This provides a link between them and the packaging

of quick food that they’re eating that come from the grocery store.”

Co-director Peggy Whalen-Levitt and Founder Carolyn Toben worked together to create what the center is today.

Whalen-Levitt said the overall effect the programs have had on volunteers and workers alike has proven the mission to be effective.

Bisdee was a kindergarten teacher for 23 years, and despite her extensive time working with children, her job at the center has provided a much different experience.

“After being here, I’ve experienced the feeling of being connected to a world that’s so much greater than myself,” Bisdee said. “It’s a feeling that I’m never alone.”

Sherron took away the recognition that there is more outside the Elon “bubble.”

“My worldview was changed when I was interning there,” she said. “Living inside the Elon bubble can sometimes be very constraining, even in the midst of the liberal arts curriculum. My time there helped me to recognize the importance of community with all of Earth’s inhabitants — the people, plants, trees, birds, fish, foxes, deer, rabbits and even the bugs.”

The center always appreciates work from Elon students, Bisdee and Whalen-Levitt said.

“Many students who have come here have said that Elon is so manicured and that it’s nice to be in a place that’s so wild,” Bisdee said.

The center serves as a getaway to help alleviate some of the stresses of college life.

“My time there was a period within my day where the business of Elon could be set aside and I could settle my senses,” Sherron said. “I could forget about the meetings, assignments and programs that were waiting for me back at school. It added balance to my life and really strengthened me to keep going, even through the stressful times around midterms and finals.”

Max’s MIDDLE EASTERN night

Increasing diversity through stomachs

Rebecca Smith
Senior Reporter

It has always been said the way to the heart is through the stomach. Elon University and ARAMARK staffs teamed up this week to create a night of Persian food to help open up students’ minds and appetites to diversity.

Max Akhlaghi, the location manager for Brown & Co., prepared for the “Middle Eastern Theme Dinner” in Colonnades on Tuesday weeks in advance.

He started preparing for Tuesday’s dinner on Sunday, but he has been cooking his whole life. Akhlaghi first started cooking with his mother as a young boy.

“In Persian culture, the whole family comes together,” Akhlaghi said. “Everyone has to participate in the preparation and the cooking.”

In 1978, Akhlaghi moved from Iran to Florida to go to college. While in school, he took a job at a Chinese restaurant to sustain himself during the Iranian Revolution.

He later moved to Virginia and went into the food business once again, working at two different pizza restaurants.

“When I was a student, the Iranian youth would go to demonstrations about the Revolution in Iran,” Akhlaghi said. “There was a student gathering in Raleigh during Christmas of 1979. When I saw the Raleigh red clay, it stood out in my mind and in my heart.”

Akhlaghi moved to Los Angeles to work for Apple, where he met his wife and realized he did not want to raise a family there. The memory of the red clay brought him back to North Carolina, where he started working at Elon.

Akhlaghi said the university environment is perfect for him because he is a natural teacher, who loves sharing his history, culture and thoughts with others.

“All the students at Elon University are my children,” Akhlaghi said. “I am always willing to help them with assignments. I have had students who were doing projects on the Middle East, and I gladly helped them.”

The Middle Eastern dinner was requested by Francois Masuka, director of international student and faculty scholar services, who had tasted Akhlaghi’s Persian food a couple of times before. Masuka had been trying to get an international night started to bring all the international students together.

Akhlaghi said he hopes more international nights occur, but noted the decision is up to students.

“I would love if Brown & Co. had Persian nights,” Akhlaghi said. “I would play music and bring friends to sing and dance. I think that it would become the busiest night in here.”

Elon is striving to become a more diverse place, and Akhlaghi thinks this is a great opportunity for people to learn more about each other’s cultures.

“People are people all over earth,” Akhlaghi said. “There are different governments, but not different people. I think that connecting the people around the world would help solve so many problems.”

There were 10 different items on the menu Tuesday. For dinner, there was kuku sabzi (a green vegetables and herb omelette), kotlet-gusht-o sibzamini (meat and potato pasties), morgh-e beryani va saffron (roasted chicken with exotic herb saffron), qormeh sabzi va bolo (green vegetable and beef stew with basmati rice), sabzi polo va mahi (vegetable rice with fried fish) and for dessert, kalucheh yazdi (muffins with raisins, almonds and pistachios on top).

“It all tastes really, really good,” Akhlaghi said. “I guarantee that they (students) will fall in love with it.”

Boys and Girls Club provides home away from home

Marlena Chertock
Reporter

Several elementary and middle school children scribble away at their homework. Some shift in their seats, while others draw pictures on their papers instead of completing their math problems. After a few minutes of restfulness, one child cracks a joke and the entire room bursts out in laughter.

This is a typical Thursday afternoon for Xylde Gee, or as the kids call her, Mrs. Gee. Gee is the program director at the Burlington Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. She is one of the three full-time staff members at the club.

The Boys and Girls Club has been around since the mid-1950s, Executive Director Sherri Henderson said. The building in Burlington was constructed in 1979.

The club acts as an after school care program for children in the community. Salvation Army buses pick up children from 11 elementary and middle schools in the surrounding area, Monday through Friday from 2:30 - 6 p.m. The club takes care of high school-age children as well, though it does not have a pickup program in place for them.

Gee has worked at the Boys and Girls Club for almost 15 years, long enough to have seen many of the children she works with grow up.

"I've always enjoyed working with children," she said.

Gee said the best part of working at the club is getting to know the children, seeing them excel and "being a part of their lives as they grow up."

"They're so proud when they do good," Gee said. "They want you to see that. Awards they win in school, they want you



LAUREN RAMSDELL | Photographer
Program Director Xylde Gee tutors Josh, a fourth-grade student at the Boys and Girls Club.

to be there for. Birthdays, they want you to come."

Gee is a living paradigm of the club's mission statement: "To inspire and enable all young people, especially those that need us the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens."

She said the children truly need the club and its members.

When the children have functions at their schools, Gee said many glance around with looks on their faces asking, "Where's my grandma?"

"We try to remedy that kind of feeling," Gee said. "We try to be there for the parents. I know what it's like to be a working parent. There's so much you can miss."

An ad in the paper asking for help drew Gee's attention to the club.

"I was a bookkeeper," she said. "I don't like sitting behind a desk."

Gee said she needs to be on her toes, always expecting something new the kids

might cook up.

"At least days are never the same," Gee said of working at the club.

The Boys and Girls Club only has three full-time staff members and relies mostly on outside volunteers.

Many Elon students volunteer at the club for work study programs or simply to help out.

"We couldn't do the program without Elon," Gee said.

But running a program on a volunteer basis can be unreliable. The number of volunteers that come in daily can vary. There is no concrete list of volunteers who are always available, and Gee said the club needs more assistance.

Henderson said there needs to be more advertisements around Alamance County to "let the people in Burlington, Gibsonville (and) Elon know what we're doing."

Gee agreed, saying non-profit organizations often have a difficult time securing funding.

Sending 'Seasonal Sights, Sounds and Sweets' of home to deployed troops

Allee Bennett
Reporter

The comfort of friends and family. The smells of home-cooked meals. The freedom to relax or walk among shopping traffic.

To the 330,000 military men and women deployed to combat zones, this is a daydream and an unattainable wish this holiday season.

Give2TheTroops, Inc. is one local non-profit reaching out to spread the holiday cheer and keep the hopes and wishes of troops alive through its annual 2009 Holidays for the Troops Care Package Collection Drive.

The North Carolina branch, located in Greenville, expects to ship 800 packages this holiday season, with each package filled with items for 12 to 20 military personnel.

Last week, Elon alumni donated holiday packages and money to the organization. The alumni collected supplies ranging from beef jerky to electronics as well as holiday decorations and gifts.

"On Thursday, an alumna drove a delivery down and brought us a donation for mailing packages," said Diane Craig, a board member of the North Carolina branch. "We are blessed."

This year's theme for the collection drive is "Seasonal Sights, Sounds & Sweets." The organization is striving to include favorite memories of home, entertainment, food and personalized items in each package.

"One thing troops say they love, and our branch does with every box, is top it off with a gallon-size bag of cards and letters written from families and individuals," Craig said. "It is just a piece of home, a card or letter they normally find on the refrigerator at home."

The non-profit, including its warehouses, telephones and supplies, are all run through donations. The North Carolina branch, directed by Barbara Whitehead, is entirely voluntary. Businesses, churches, organizations, schools and families can donate and volunteer at the on-site center.

Give2TheTroops contributes year-round, with 15 programs and campaigns sending themed packages for birthdays and special occasions. The organization is in need of donations, especially for postage costs of \$10,000 per month. Holiday shipping costs alone are expected to be \$18,000.

"We are sending packages year-round, so we are always in need of donations," Craig said.

Craig said the supplies needed are constantly changing as troops move into Afghanistan, and many are living in tents. Troops must find ways to entertain themselves during their downtime overseas. Craig confirms that donations such as reading materials and interactive games are beneficial, depending on whether troops have electricity.

"Downtime is critical. It is their only time to de-stress," Craig said.

The North Carolina branch sends packages from across the nation to assigned pools of units. The director receives information of the number of troops, the most needed items and the troops' conditions. Packages are then personalized for each unit.

"They appreciate the effort," said Elon senior Jessica Rossi, the girlfriend of a U.S. Marine. "The fact that people back home were thinking of them makes them smile."

Other Elon community members recognize the importance of the care packages to the troops.

Senior Catherine Melendez is in the process of organizing an event with her sorority and close friends to gather supplies for the troops this season. Melendez creates care packages for her father and other members serving in the military.

"Everyone deserves to be thanked," Melendez said. "I know that one of the most important things is (to show) appreciation."

Melendez's father, a major in the Army, is currently deployed to Afghanistan. This will be her first Christmas without him at home in Maryland.

For more information about ongoing programs and campaigns visit:
<http://www.give2thetroops.org/programs.htm>

To set up an appointment to volunteer or coordinate large shipments, contact Barbara Whitehead, director:

North Carolina Branch
Give2TheTroops
Branch Director 3109 Landmark St.
Greenville, N.C.

Tel. 252.321.8227
E-mail: Barbara@Give2thetroops.org

"It's hard to celebrate and be happy when you know that someone you care about is so far away," she said. "The biggest reward is when you sit back and think about your life and you know that it's like that because of brave people like my dad."

Senior Emily Speer creatively issued a 'joint-package operation' with Melendez in showing their appreciation to soldiers. Speer's brother shipped out for his first 12-month tour in Iraq last month.

Speer and her family are preparing bags of holiday treats for the 26 soldiers in her brothers' platoon. She also sends frequent packages to mutual friends of her brother's, stationed around the world.

"I can't even talk about it," Speer said of the holidays. "I refuse to do anything traditional (because he is gone). I am not receiving any gifts or observing any holidays this year."

Give2theTroops will be collecting donations until Dec. 1 and will be mailing packages to designated Army Post Office Box addresses until the middle of December for the holiday collection drive.

"Troops need to know the citizens of the country they are fighting for are behind them and that we support them," Rossi said. "We all do not have to agree with world events or the leadership of our country, but it is important to support those risking their lives for our safety."

HUNGRY for CHANGE

Amanda Bender
Reporter

Luisa is a low-income woman living in South America, and one of the identities a person may adopt at a Hunger Banquet.

The Hunger Banquet is not a typical charity dinner according to student coordinator Natalie Lampert said. People come expecting to be fed, but instead receive an experience of global poverty. Lampert describes the banquet as a simulation "to demonstrate the unequal distribution of global resources."

Participants in the Hunger Banquet each receive a biography card as they enter the dinner. Each card contains the story of a real person from somewhere in the world. The cards are color-coded to divide participants into three income categories: low, middle and high. The amount of students in each income group is proportionate to the amount of people in each group around the world.

"I want them to recognize that these people exist and these kind of inequalities are out there," Lampert said.

High-income participants are served a three-course dinner and seated at a table in the center of the room. Those with a mid-income biography sit in chairs on the outskirts of the room and are given a bowl of rice and vegetables. The low-income participants must sit on the floor with a few buckets of rice and water for them to share.

"Participants will walk away with new understanding of not only the facts of world food distribution and the issue of hunger, but having experienced it firsthand," said Phil Smith, associate university chaplain and director of Religious Life.

After the meal, students hear from Kim Jones, associate professor of anthropology. She tells the students "about the difference between donating food to feed a person or family for a day and advocating for infrastructural changes that enable a family to feed itself adequately forever." Jones spent 15 years working at the teaching hospital at the State University of Montes Claros in Brazil. She has also worked with several nongovernmental organizations that serve children.

"Hunger is not only an issue for children," Jones said. "It is an issue of inequality and inadequate access to work, clean water and adequate food."

Any of the leftover food will be donated to Grace United Methodist Church, Lampert said. From there, the food will be distributed at the East Burlington Community Center. Children will be able to take this leftover food home with them, or it will be given to people at the center.

Lampert said she did not expect much money to be raised from the Hunger Banquet.

"It is your voice that is more important, not your wallet," Lampert said.

She added that any funds raised would be given to Oxfam America to create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice.

Junior Molly Schriber said change is the key to this banquet.

"We need to do something on campus," said Schriber, who is helping with the banquet. "You don't really think about where our food comes from. Does it come from power-hungry hands or from a local source?"

Lampert is coordinating the Hunger Banquet through Oxfam America. She experienced her first Hunger Banquet this summer while she was working with the organization. She is hosting the banquet with help from Schriber and various organizations on campus like the Truitt Center and the Periclean Scholars.

"I purposely came at this without an Elon affiliation so that all of these groups could work together," Lampert said.

The Hunger Banquet is supposed to help students better understand the current situations and to motivate them to change their lifestyles, Smith said.

"Maybe this triggers someone to actually do something," Schriber said. "To be a true activist."

Elon students express concern for conflict in Honduras

Julie Halm
Reporter

In the Town of Elon, citizens can count on sleeping through the night without being awakened by gunshots. One can be almost certain the government in office today will be there tomorrow. For the people of Honduras, these luxuries don't exist.

Elon sophomore Melissa Patrick was looking forward to the elections in Honduras. Scheduled to lead an alternative spring break trip to Honduras in 2010, she thought the elections would calm the country before she was scheduled to arrive.

But the situation in Honduras has been fragile lately. During the summer, democratically elected President Jose Zelaya was forcefully removed from office amid allegations he was planning to violate the constitution by engineering a means to remain in office for a second term.

A man named Roberto Micheletti stepped in to take his place, and there has hardly been a moment of peace since.

Opinions vary greatly around the world as to who was wrong in this situation, and the feelings on Elon's campus are no different.

"The way that Zelaya was dealt with was the only unconstitutional thing about the situation," said Michael Matthews, assistant professor of history.

Matthews specializes in the history of Mexico and Latin America. He said there are many trends in the history of Latin America that Honduras is currently following.

"It's a similar pattern that we've seen, where the U.S. has vested economic interest," Matthews said.

He said the United States is not actively trying to reinstate Zelaya



Elon volunteers pose with the boys of Priniño at their school in Honduras. Because of civil unrest, the yearly Winter Term and Spring Break trips to the country have been canceled. PHOTO SUBMITTED

because Micheletti represents the business class and, therefore, the United States' interests within Honduras.

Honduran citizen and Elon student MJ Soler said she disagrees. Soler said she was upset Zelaya was simply forced out of the country and not detained.

Soler grew up in the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula, which has a reputation for its crime rate. According to Soler, whose father remains in Honduras, the situation is not safe now, yet it never truly has been.

Soler said she doesn't believe there is much difference between the level of security before the coup and now.

She said she doesn't worry too much about her father, despite a lack of extended family back in Honduras. Her brother went to college in Georgia and has remained in the United States.

As a resident of both the United States and Honduras, Soler said she can see both sides of this argument. As an American, she acknowledges people have a right to free speech. As a Honduran, she sees the danger of the uneducated

leading the uneducated masses.

No matter the smaller issues within this larger confrontation, Soler said she hopes Zelaya is not able to return to power.

The United States government initially objected to Zelaya's removal and refused to acknowledge any elections that took place while Micheletti's interim government was still in power. Recently, amid much international pressure, a decision was made in which the Honduran Congress assumed the daunting task of deciding whether Zelaya should return to office until elections are held later this month.

With this accord, the United States has declared it will honor the upcoming elections.

The alternative spring break would have been Patrick's second trip to the country, but her return trip will have to wait.

"I was really upset," she said of Elon's cancellation of the trip. "I wish they had waited until after the elections."

Visiting Honduras was not Patrick's first time doing volunteer work in a foreign country, and these trips have become more than just service hours for Patrick. She said they have become a deep passion of hers and one that will take her to a whole new part of the world this spring.

Patrick will now co-lead an alternative spring break trip to Jamaica to do volunteer work similar to what the students would have done in Honduras.

Patrick was not alone in her disappointment. Christine Cotton, a Spanish professor at Elon, was slated to lead the school's second Winter Term trip to the country. The school has also canceled that trip.

A written statement from the Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies offered multiple reasons for the decision.

"The safety and well-being of Elon students are a primary concern," said Paul Geis, assistant director for affiliations and exchanges.

The political instability of the country was also mentioned as one of the primary reasons for calling off the trips.

Both of the trips were service-oriented and worked with a charitable program called Proniño. This program takes Honduran boys off the streets and out of gangs and other dangerous or unhealthy situations in an attempt to give them a fair shot at life. Both Cotton and Patrick said not returning to help these people is the hardest part about the cancellations.

"You feel like you're letting them down," Cotton said. "You feel like you're breaking a promise."

Both programs plan on restarting their trips next year, provided the political situation has become stable by then.

A CHANCE AT SUCCESS

Colonnades work-study program provides new hope for special needs students

Lindsay Fendt
Reporter

Joshua Clark, a "borderline intellectually challenged" student, feared he would not graduate high school.

"He was beginning to think he was not going to make it because of what was told to him," said Matthew Clark, an Elon biology professor and Joshua's father. "The people who were closest to him continued to encourage him."

After his charter school was shut down for financial reasons during his sophomore year, Joshua transferred to Western Alamance High School and entered the Occupational Course of Study program.

"From there, we began this journey to help this boy," Clark said. "We began to put things in place in the system to give him a chance."

The OCS program is designed to do just that — give students with disabilities a chance. Students in the program take classes to learn on-the-job skills and then gain actual work experience in the field their junior and senior years.

"We want them to succeed in some kind of job, because they likely will not go to college," said Anne Blackwell, an exceptional children teacher at Western Alamance.

Former ARAMARK Location Manager Michelle Campos-Gregoris heard about the program after

talking with a friend involved with it in Forsyth County. Campos-Gregoris contacted the Burlington-Alamance School System last spring, and soon students, including Joshua, began working in the Colonnades Dining Hall.

"It is a win-win situation for both parties," she said. "It helps us fill staffing needs during busy times and gives them job skills."

The students at the Colonnades rotate between serving food, working in the dish room and cleaning tables.

"It gives them experiences in the community so they know what they like," Blackwell said. "It gives them experience training."

Because of the rotation between jobs, the students learn which kinds of jobs they are interested in and which kinds they are not. While most of the students have a difficult time excelling in a traditional school setting, they tend to have incredible work ethics and do well in a labor-oriented work setting, Blackwell said.

"Our kids are all hands-on," Blackwell said. "If you show them something they can do with their hands, they're as happy as can be."

Joshua worked off the hours he needed to graduate from high school last summer and applied for an official job with ARAMARK. He is currently working at different dining locations across campus, as well as in catering, and will graduate from a new

career training program at Alamance Community College designed for OCS students in several weeks.

Clark said he believes his son has been so successful with ARAMARK because they allow him to work without labeling him as different from any of the other workers. He explained how his son and people like him are often left behind when, in fact, they can contribute just as much to society as anyone else.

"I believe that these kinds of programs are critically important for the survival of these kids," he said. "So many would just slip through the cracks otherwise."

The program has been getting more attention recently and will be going through some changes in the coming years. The schools are trying to work with Alamance Community College to add additional career training programs, and the high school curriculum will become more rigorous.

"These kids have a lot to overcome," Blackwell said. "This program gives them a chance to get a high school diploma and a job."

Clark said the program has made a huge difference in his son's life.

"If it had not been for what the ARAMARK program has done for my son, he would be sitting at home on the couch regressing," Clark said. "Now he has a job, a paycheck, a diploma and he is thriving."

HOLIDAY TREATS

Thanksgiving recipes

Compiled by Sarah Costello
Reporter

Thanksgiving break is just around the corner. As this beloved and hectic holiday nears, there is no better time than the present to prepare by experimenting with new recipes and satisfying the palette with delectable treats and casseroles.

From scrumptious sweet potato soufflé to a hot and cheesy crab dip, the following recipes are sure to satisfy taste buds and reawaken memories of past holidays.

PUMPKIN BARS

Ingredients, bars:

- * 4 eggs
- * 1 2/3 cups granulated sugar
- * 1 cup vegetable oil
- * 15-ounce canned pumpkin
- * 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- * 2 teaspoons baking powder
- * 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- * 1 teaspoon salt
- * 1 teaspoon baking soda

Ingredients, icing:

- * 8-ounce package cream cheese softened
- * 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- * 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
- * 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Using an electric mixer at medium speed, combine the eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin until light and fluffy. Stir together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and baking soda. Add the dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and mix at low speed until thoroughly combined and the batter is smooth. Spread the batter into a greased 13 by 10-inch baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes. Let cool completely before frosting. Cut into bars.

To make the icing: Combine the cream cheese and butter in a medium bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the sugar and mix at low speed until combined. Stir in the vanilla and mix again. Spread on cooled pumpkin bars.

FOR MORE DELECTABLE THANKSGIVING TREATS, VISIT WWW.MYRECIPES.COM AND WWW.FOODNETWORK.COM.

SWEET POTATO SOUFFLE

Ingredients

- * 6 sweet potatoes
- * 1 cup white sugar
- * 1/2 cup milk
- * 1/2 cup melted butter
- * 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- * 2 eggs, beaten
- * 1/2 teaspoon salt
- * 1 cup dark brown sugar
- * 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- * 1/3 cup melted butter
- * 1 cup chopped pecans

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease or butter one 2 quart casserole dish

Cover sweet potatoes with one inch of water in a large pot and boil for 20 minutes, or until tender. Drain, allow to cool and remove skins. Place potatoes in a mixing bowl and beat with an electric mixer on low speed until potatoes begin to break up. Increase speed to medium high and blend until smooth.

Reduce speed to low and add sugar, milk, butter, vanilla, eggs and salt. Mix well. Allow any potato 'fibers' to remain on the beater and remove. Pour sweet potato mixture into the casserole dish.

Prepare the topping in a small bowl by whisking together the brown sugar, flour, butter and pecans. Sprinkle mixture over potato mixture and bake for 40 minutes.

HOT CRAB DIP

Ingredients

- * 2 (6 ounce) cans crab meat (drained and checked for shells)
- * 4 (8 ounce) bars of cream cheese
- * 3/4 cup chopped onion
- * 4 tablespoons soy sauce
- * 1 cup cheddar cheese

Directions

Mix ingredients together in a large bowl. Leave out some of the cheese to top the dip with later. Bake at 350 degrees in covered dish for 20 minutes. Stir ingredients and top with remaining cheese. Check mixture after every 10 minutes of baking and stir until mixture is totally dissolved and bubbling hot. Baking time is usually 45 minutes to one hour. Serve with any dipping vegetables, chips or crackers.



ONE ON ONE

Kevin Clang and Russell Varner
Sports Commentators

NBA season starters: surprises and disappointments

The NBA season has begun and, as usual, some things didn't need predicting. Everybody knew the Los Angeles Lakers were most likely going to be good and the Memphis Grizzlies weren't. Fortunately for us, not everything in the season has been as expected. What have been the biggest surprises and disappointments?

KEVIN:

As far as surprises go, I'd like to point out that the Portland Trail Blazers are quietly sitting atop the Northwest Division with an 8-3 record.

The team is currently in the middle of a five-game winning streak. Shooting guard Brandon Roy is currently leading the team with a not-too-shabby 20.6 points per game. Center Greg Oden finally appears to be establishing himself as a NBA threat.

Most of the team's wins have come against sub-par teams, so it will be interesting to see if the Blazers are able to maintain this type of record throughout the season.

RUSSELL:

Well how about the 5-2 Milwaukee Bucks? How about the play of Bucks' rookie Brandon Jennings? The guy struggles in the European leagues and then comes to the NBA and scores 55 points in a single game. How does that happen?

Now he's averaging 25.6 points and 5.1 assists a game, leading the Bucks in both categories. It also helps when Bucks' center Andrew Bogut is nearly

averaging a double-double for the team.

And Michael Redd, arguably the team's best player, is out with an injury, but should be returning soon, which makes this team more dangerous.

KEVIN:

Unfortunately, not every team has been as lucky as the Blazers and the Bucks. The lowly New Orleans Hornets, so dominant last year, are a miserable 3-8. After surprising the league by making the playoffs last season, the Hornets seemed to be fit to continue their success by adding center Emeka Okafor to their roster.

Nine games into the season, the Hornets fired head coach Byron Scott. The team has yet to recover. An injury to star Chris Paul in last weekend's loss to Milwaukee doesn't bode well for the team.

RUSSELL:

I do agree with the Hornets for all the reasons you previously mentioned. It's a shame to see them fall from grace so quickly. I'd also like to point out that the Utah Jazz has started off the year at 4-6 and the Detroit Pistons now have a record of 5-6. The Pistons have been without Richard Hamilton and Tayshawn Prince.

Also the New Jersey Nets have yet to win a game. I know no one expected much out of the Nets, but to lose 10 games in a row starting a season? That's just sad.

ATHLETIC RESULTS

NOV. 11-NOV. 17

Football

Nov. 14
Appalachian State 27
Elon 10

Men's soccer

Nov. 13
College of Charleston 0
Elon 2

Nov. 15
Elon 1
Wofford 2

Volleyball

Nov. 14
Elon 2
Appalachian State 3

Nov. 15
Elon 2
Western Carolina 3

Men's Basketball

Nov. 14
Elon 91
Lipscomb 86

Nov. 16
Charlotte 75
Elon 61

Women's Basketball

Nov. 13
Youngstown State 66
Elon 86

Nov. 14
Navy 68
Elon 61

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cardinal wins Fall World Series, in intersquad scrimmage

The Phoenix baseball team completed its annual intersquad World Series this past Wednesday.

Leading the Cardinal team was junior infielder Neal Pritchard who had two doubles, a triple and two homeruns.

The Gold team came out strong in the series winning the first game 3-2. Junior pitcher Jimmy Reyes led the squad from the mound.

The second game was clutched by the Cardinal team with a 5-2 victory. Junior outfielder Harry Austin had two hits and two RBI in the game.

In the final game of the series both pitchers, senior Daniel Britt and freshman Ryan Gunther, had strong showings. Pritchard put the game away for the Cardinals with a three-run hit.

Men's and women's tennis releases Spring 2010 schedules

The women's and men's tennis team recently announced its 2010 season.

The men will be facing nine opponents, which finished in the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings last year.

The women will host 14 matches, and face five teams that finished in the top 75 in the country last season.

SPORTS
THIS WEEK
NOV. 18 - NOV. 24

Friday

Men's Basketball vs. Fairleigh Dickenson-Florham—7 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. St. Andrews—5 p.m.

Saturday

Football @Samford—3 p.m.

Monday

Men's Basketball (Preseason NIT)
-TBD

Tuesday

Men's Basketball (Preseason NIT)
- TBD

SGA

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**Student Government Association
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**However, your tuition would raise by \$20.00
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awalton2@elon.edu**

Cross country teams take 20th place at NCAA Regional

Ashley Barnas
Online Editor-in-Chief

Having her teammates' encouragement and hearing her coach cheering along the course made something click in Caitlin Beeler. It wasn't the fact that she's a senior and Saturday was the final race of her college career. It wasn't the need to beat personal records. It was the burning desire for her team to win.

It was a sunny day in Louisville, Ky., when the men's and women's cross country teams snagged 20th-place finishes in the NCAA Southeast Regional. E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park played host to 35 teams in the region for a men's 10K and women's 6K.

Beeler ran a time of 22:27 earning her 78th place in the region and second place for the Phoenix.

"It was exciting but I would have to say that it was for the team," Beeler said. "I had a lot of support from my team members. And being a senior, that's the kind of motivation — to lay it all out there and give it all you have."

No one on the team could do it alone, Beeler said, and running well for her teammates is motivation enough.

"It wouldn't be possible to succeed unless you have a team behind you," she said.

In a field of 231 runners, junior Justin Gianni finished first for the Phoenix and ran a time of 32:10, earning him 59th place and setting a new school record for the 10K.

"I knew that I could possibly run the school record, that I was capable of that," Gianni said. "I knew that I was here for a breakthrough race, so I went in confident and ran as hard as I could."

Head cross country coach Christine Engel said Gianni's race was huge — he ran 45 seconds faster than the previous school record and a minute and a half faster than he ran at the NCAA Regional last year.

Gianni now holds the school record for the 8K and 10K, goals he set for himself to achieve this season.

"I was excited because I did not run as well as I wanted to at the conference meet and I knew this was an opportunity for me to redeem myself," Gianni said.

He said he wanted to show his team how much he cares about them by running well in Louisville.

"Our top three guys all ran under the previous school record, so that was a pretty extraordinary job," Engel said.

The race plan for the men was "to go out and be aggressive but be patient early and not get overly caught up in the pace of the 10K," Engel said. "They executed the plan perfectly."

Junior Matt Richardson came in 68th with a time of 32:21, followed by sophomore Willie Schefer in 95th with a time of 32:51. The team ran without its

normal fourth runner, freshman Connor Mercurio, because of a knee injury.

The women finished in 20th place out of 35 teams, a seven-place improvement from last year's regional championship. Engel's goal for the women was to match their 15th place ranking, but she said she was still pleased with their finish.

"Five of the top 10 best times ever run for the 6K were run on Saturday for us," Engel said. "The women proved they can still go out with a lot of motivation and compete with the best teams in the region."

Junior Emily Fournier led the Phoenix women with a 73rd place finish in a field of 237 runners with a time of 22:22 on the 6K course.

"Emily had a good race — it was pretty comparable to her races in the whole season," Engel said. "She's been very consistent. She's been one of our most consistent kids, so it's what I expected."

Engel said this was the best season in history for both the men's and women's teams, especially after the women's second-place finish and the men's fifth-place finish at the Southern Conference Championship held at Elon on Oct. 31.

Engel called out two seniors who she said are strong leaders on the team and the only two seniors who ran in Saturday's championship.

"They will be very missed," Engel said. "Any time you graduate people on the team that have run for four years, it is a loss."

Beeler, one of the team's captains, helped to lead her team to a second-place finish in the SoCon. She also earned first team all-conference honors. It will be a tough loss, Engel said, because Beeler is a strong leader who all the women look up to since she is "just such a supportive teammate" with great work ethic.

Senior David Wells, in the top-seven for the men's team, will also be a tough loss, Engel said. Wells finished in 177th place on Saturday with a time of 34:40. Wells ran a personal best with a time of 26:56 at the Louisville Classic where he placed fifth on the team. Any time the team loses a runner in the top seven, it's always a big hit, Engel said. From a leadership perspective, losing seniors is always hard.

"Looking back at the race, it was just kind of going in and being competitive with the teams that were out there," Beeler said. "We just wanted to make the statement that we were top competitors in the region."

Engel said after losing the SoCon title by one point, the women truly want to and believe they can win next year. She said she expects the men to be in the hunt next season as well.

"There were so many firsts throughout the entire season for our team and it definitely brought our program to the next level," Engel said.

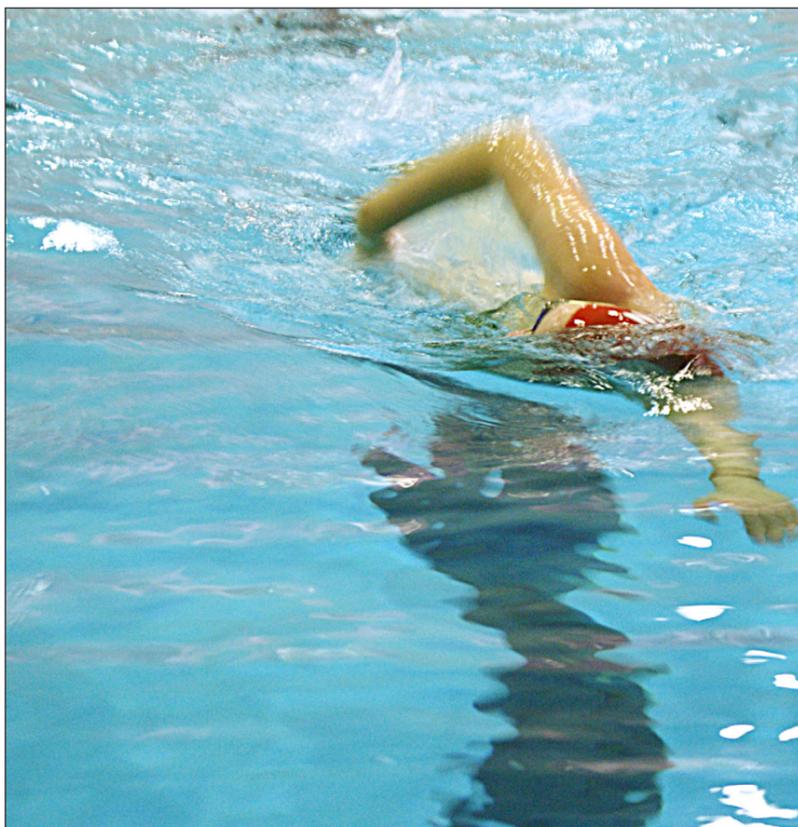


FILE PHOTO
Juniors Justin Gianni, Matt Richardson and Willie Schefer all ran under the previous school 10K record Saturday to pace the Elon men to a 20th place finish at the Southeast Regional Championship.



FILE PHOTO
The women's cross country team placed 20 out of 35 teams at the Southeast Regional Championship in Louisville, Ky., on Saturday.

Keep swimming with USwim



HEATHER CASSANO | Photographer
Sophomore Laura Bondi works off her USwim miles in Beck Pool during swim practice.

Sam Parker
Reporter

Sponsored by Campus Recreation, USwim is an event that encourages students to get active on a level different than simply working out at the gym.

Co-chief organizer of the event Dan Baquet said the basic idea behind USwim is to get students to experience the pool-based exercise of swimming.

"We get students active in the pool by giving them an end goal," Baquet said.

Students sign up for the event at the Campus Rec. office and then select a college or university, whose distances from Elon vary, to swim to. The schools available for selection are determined by which other campus recreation programs have traded T-shirts or uniforms with Elon.

The expectation is that each participant will swim the total mileage needed to complete the journey to his or her college destination printed on the preferred T-shirt.

"Elon's Campus Recreation trades a bunch of its T-shirts with other Campus Rec programs, and we use those T-shirts as prizes for completion of the USwim event," Baquet said. "When a student picks a school, they swim the distance to that school."

After completing a day's workout, participants are able to record the

miles they swam with the help of the lifeguards on duty. Each lifeguard is responsible for confirming the number of laps finished and jotting them down in a record book available to staff.

"For example, if I were to pick UNC Charlotte as my destination, I would have to swim 102 miles," Baquet said. "One length of the pool is the equivalent to one mile. Once I swim 102 lengths of the pool, I can get my UNC Charlotte T-shirt."

For many participants, a free T-shirt is motivation enough to simply get them swimming.

"I'd say the primary reason that students participate in USwim is to get active in the pool with a cool T-shirt in return," Baquet said.

Freshman and club swim member Will Anderson said he agrees that the main draw is the selection of T-shirts.

"One of my friends told me about it when I asked how to get involved in the swimming program, so I picked out a T-shirt I really liked and started," Anderson said.

Even though it may be too late to participate in USwim this year, it seems the program will continue.

"USwim is a growing program at Elon," Baquet said. "This year we have close to 100 participants, which is more than we had last year. Hopefully we'll have even more in our other programs next year."

Phoenix falls to Charlotte at Cameron Indoor Stadium



Elon senior forward Adam Constantine (right) had 11 points and seven rebounds against UNC Charlotte Monday night. The Phoenix lost 75-61.

Conor O'Neill
Reporter

DURHAM, N.C. — After a weekend that saw Phoenix teams combine for a 1-5 record, Phoenix fans hoped for a bounce back win when the basketball team traveled to Duke on Monday night to battle the Charlotte 49ers in a Preseason NIT matchup.

Playing hard for all 40 minutes, the Phoenix could not get enough shots to fall and dropped to 1-1 on the season with a 75-61 loss.

But there were times in the game when the 49ers could have pulled away and put the game out of doubt, if not for the hard fought efforts of the Phoenix.

"We competed for 40 minutes, and we will learn from this," said head coach Matt Matheny, who received his first loss as a head coach.

After opening the season with a 91-86 victory over the Lipscomb Bison last Friday with 57.6 percent field goals made, Monday night's 31.1 percent rate was a stark contrast to the season opener.

As part of that statistic is attributable to an off-night for the Phoenix, the 49ers' defense recorded 15 blocked shots and constantly applied pressure to the Phoenix

long range shooters.

One area of improvement from each game was the rebound statistics. The Phoenix out-rebounded the 49ers 43-41 with 14 offensive rebounds, much better than Friday's game in which the Phoenix lost the battle on the boards 29-25.

"Over the last 48 hours, 'rebound' is word that these guys have heard a lot," Matheny joked.

Playing in an arena as historic as Cameron Indoor Stadium and playing a physical Charlotte team, the Phoenix had several chances to let the game slip away in the second half. But the Phoenix held tough and made a few scoring runs, cutting the deficit to 10 points several times.

"I'm very proud of how we stuck together as a team," senior forward Adam Constantine said.

He had 11 points along with seven rebounds in the loss.

It was obvious to anyone in the stadium the Phoenix was not satisfied with its effort, even until the horn sounded, as players were diving for loose balls even as the final seconds rolled off the scoreboard.

The effort made by the Phoenix did not go unnoticed by 49ers head

coach Bobby Lutz.

"Elon really rebounded the ball and battled us to the end," Lutz said.

The leading scorer for the Phoenix was sophomore guard Josh Bonney, who had 15 points, 11 of which came in the second half. Bonney is quick to point out how he was able to find his scoring touch in the second frame.

"I just stayed within (coach Matheny's) system and kept pushing the ball," Bonney said.

He also said because of the success Friday night, Bonney knows the shots missed on Monday are shots that can be made.

While this was Matheny's first trip to Cameron Indoor Stadium as a head coach, he knows his way around the building. For the past seven seasons Matheny has traveled and lost to Duke as an assistant coach for Davidson College, in which the Wildcats came close several times to upsetting the Blue Devils.

"It's a different experience going to the shoot around and not preparing for Duke," Matheny said.

The Phoenix returns to Alumni Gym at 7 p.m. Friday this week to face the Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Women's basketball looks to regroup after defeat against Navy

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

Before their season began, Elon women's basketball coach Karen Barefoot said building a college basketball program is similar to building a house. The Phoenix will attempt to lay another brick 5 p.m. Friday at Alumni Gym as the team takes on St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

The Phoenix is coming off a disheartening 68-61 loss to the Naval Academy on Saturday. It was the team's final game in the Phoenix Classic tournament. The team won its first game of the tournament 86-66 against Youngstown State on Friday night. The Phoenix record stands at 1-1 overall for the season.

The Phoenix went into halftime against Navy on Saturday with a 42-26 lead but saw the lead evaporate in the second half.

"We played extremely well the first half, and I knew in the second half we had to match that intensity," Barefoot said, "We just had our ups and downs."

In the second half, the Phoenix lead was as high as 17 points, but the Midshipmen responded by narrowing the gap to eight points with about 16 minutes left in the half. Elon Freshman forward Kelsey Evans said the team's downfall was caused, in part, by turnovers. The Phoenix had 22 turnovers while the Midshipmen had only 18.

"I think we got a little flustered," Evans said. "I think we needed to really calm down, especially with our turnovers and being careless with the ball."

Evans finished the game tied for a team-high 12 points and tied for a team-high with seven rebounds.

In the first half, the Phoenix out-rebounded Navy 30-17, but only managed to grab 10 rebounds in the second half.

"We stopped being aggressive and stopped doing the things we did well the first half," Barefoot said. "Those are the things we need to be consistent (with) throughout the game."

Friday night's game will be the opening game of a double header with the men's basketball team. The men will take on Fairleigh Dickinson - Florham University after the women's game at 7 p.m.

Evans said the loss will help motivate the team going into Friday's game.

"I think we see the areas we need to work on and it will only make us better," Evans said.

Barefoot said the team will work on different areas in practice, but will also improve by watching film as well.

St. Andrews comes into the game having played only one other regular season game against UNC Pembroke. The game is one of three remaining non-conference games before Southern Conference play begins for the Phoenix.

"I'd rather learn now and get things right before conference and get back on track," Barefoot said. "I know they want it and they are going to fix it."

The Phoenix opens SoCon play at Elon Dec. 5 against Georgia Southern in Statesboro, Ga. Last season, the Phoenix went 2-18 in the SoCon.



Senior guard Tiffany Davis (right) defends Navy's junior guard Angela Myers. Navy out-scored Elon 42-19 in the second half of the game Saturday night.



SoCon Stinger:

Elon turns the page to Samford on Saturday



Redshirt freshman linebacker Dale Riley (right) pushes Appalachian State junior running back Devon Moore out of bounds in Saturday's game.

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

As Appalachian State held the Southern Conference trophy in the air Saturday night, the Elon football team walked off the field trying to put the tough loss behind them. The final step for the Phoenix in the regular season will be at 3 p.m. Saturday against Samford University.

Last Saturday, the Phoenix lost to Appalachian State 27-10 in the SoCon championship game. With the victory, the Mountaineers won their fifth straight conference title and improved its record to 8-2 in the season and 7-0 in the SoCon. The loss drops the Phoenix to 8-2 overall and 6-1 in the SoCon.

"This is the one game you work for, you dream about, you lose sleep about, and to have it slip away from you is tough," said junior offensive lineman Corey O'Shea.

Elon junior quarterback Scott Riddle threw three interceptions in the first quarter of the game. Before the game, Riddle only had four interceptions all season long.

"You only get one shot a year to play for the college championship, and we didn't do what we had to do to get the job done," Riddle said. "It's pretty disappointing."

On each of these turnovers, the Mountaineers responded on the following possession with a touchdown. At halftime, the Phoenix trailed 21-0.

"In a way, I saw us as an underdog, and our team took that as a challenge," Appalachian State head coach Jerry Moore said.

The Phoenix began the game with a 17-yard pass from Riddle to senior wide receiver Terrell Hudgins to start the game. Hudgins finished the game with 10 catches for 127 yards, which gave him his 26th career 100-yard receiving game. This mark ties Hudgins for most 100-yard games in a Division I career.

The Phoenix came into the game ranked No. 6 in the nation, with the top-ranked defense in the nation.

Last Saturday, the defense gave up 486 total offensive yards for the Mountaineers, who were led by senior quarterback Armanti Edwards.

Edwards finished the game with 73 rushing yards and three rushing touchdowns. He also passed for 281 yards and was 21-24 passing.

"I don't think there's any question (Edwards) rises to the occasion," Elon head coach Pete Lembo said. "It almost seems like whatever level the competition is, he can play one notch above that."

This Saturday, the Phoenix defense will face another test defensively. Samford junior running back Chris Evans was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Week for his performance against Wofford College last Saturday. Evans had a career-high 257 yards, on 37 carries in a 27-24 win for the Bulldogs.

Redshirt freshman linebacker Dale Riley said the Phoenix defense needs to be in the right place at the right time and tackle well to contain the Bulldog offense led by Evans.

Another challenge for the Phoenix, according to Lembo, is traveling to Samford. The Bulldogs are 5-5 overall and 3-4 in the SoCon, but they are 4-1 at home this season, with their only home loss coming against UT Chattanooga on Oct. 10, 16-3.

"It's a great challenge," Lembo said. "Fortunately, we're 4-1

on the road, so something's got to give. I know we're quite sure that Samford is going to give us their best shot."

A win on Saturday would help the Phoenix solidify a playoff-birth in the FCS playoffs. Since the Phoenix did not win against Appalachian State, it is not eligible for an automatic bid to the playoffs, and must receive an at-large bid from the playoff selection committee.

Last season, the Phoenix lost at Liberty University in the last game of the season to be eliminated from the playoffs. This year, the Phoenix will face a nearly identical test — playing on the road for a chance at the playoffs.

"I think this is one of those things that we've been there, done that," sophomore running back A.J. Harris said. "Most of the team was there during the Liberty game. We understood that we can't do that again. We're going to go down with a business mentality."



Junior quarterback Scott Riddle protects the ball from Appalachian State's defense. Riddle threw for 212 passing yards against the Mountaineers.

MORE ONLINE:

Visit us online at <http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Default.aspx> for:



- Game highlights
- "Scene In" Rhodes Stadium
- Press conference highlights
- Photo slideshow

Top-5 things to look for against Samford

1. Samford junior running back Chris Evans was named Offensive Player of the Week in the Southern Conference. Evans ran for 257 yards on 37 carries against Wofford College last Saturday. He leads the conference in rushing averaging 105.3 yards per game.
2. Samford is 4-1 this year at home, and is 1-4 on the road. The only home loss the Bulldogs had was Oct. 10 against UT Chattanooga, 16-3.
3. Last season, Elon defeated Samford 23-17. It was the Bulldogs' first Division I football game at Rhodes Stadium.
4. Elon sophomore running back Jamal Shuman had a shoulder injury and a concussion in last Saturday's game. His status is questionable.
5. Elon is 4-1 on the road this season with its only loss coming against Wake Forest University.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 1** touchdown catch by Elon redshirt freshman wide receiver Aaron Mellette
- 3** interceptions thrown by junior quarterback Scott Riddle
- 7** more offensive plays ran by the Mountaineers than by the Phoenix
- 10** total tackles for both senior Nolan Ward and sophomore Joshua Jones
- 27** points for Appalachian State — the second most given up by the Phoenix defense all year
- 58** net rushing yards for the Phoenix
- 73** rushing yards for Mountaineer senior quarterback Armanti Edwards
- 127** receiving yards for senior wide receiver Terrell Hudgins
- 486** total offensive yards for Appalachian State

BREAKING DOWN THE APPALACHIAN STATE GAME

Sports

Men's soccer bids farewell to seven seniors on Sunday

Justine Schulerud
Reporter

Seven seniors stepped onto the field Sunday for what would be the final game of their collegiate careers. This senior class is the first in Elon history to have a winning record throughout its entire career. The seniors have led the team to 38 wins during their careers at Elon.

The Elon men's soccer team fell to Wofford College in the championship game of the Southern Conference Tournament Sunday. Despite senior defender and co-captain Steven Kinney being sidelined by injury, the Phoenix held the Terriers to two goals in a 2-1 loss.

The Phoenix fought back strong to net one goal in the 74th minute. Senior forward Erfan Imeni scored the lone goal assisted by freshman forward Chris Thomas. Thomas led the Phoenix with five shots out of 10 total for the team. Junior goalkeeper Clint Irwin held strong with three saves.

"I thought the team really applied themselves this weekend," said head coach Darren Powell. "Obviously, we are very disappointed with the loss. I felt we could have won that game."

The Terriers, who finished out the season with 12-2-3, won the regular and tournament Southern Conference title and received an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. This was the first SoCon title for Wofford.

The Phoenix had several players named to the All-Tournament team. Imeni, accompanied by teammates junior goalie Irwin and Thomas, were all named to the All-Tournament team.

Despite the loss, the Phoenix finished its season with many honors. Thomas was named the SoCon Freshman of the Year. He was also

named to the All-Freshmen Team and Second All-Conference Team. Seniors Kinney and Justin Wyatt were named to the first team for the third year in a row. Imeni was named to the first team for the second time. Irwin was also named to the first team and junior midfielder Brad Franks was named to the second team.

"I think it's good for our players to be recognized by coaches throughout the league," Powell said. "It's a big compliment to the program to be recognized again. It was nice to have three underclassmen in that group as well."

Thomas had the team-high of eight goals on the season, accompanied by two assists. He also led the team with 18 points.

Kinney led the Phoenix defense to nine shutouts in the 2009 season.

Wyatt finished his senior year totaling 15 points and five assists and five goals on the season. He holds the second all-time spot in program history with a career total of 79 points and 39 career goals.

Imeni tied the Elon career assist list with eight. This season alone he tallied seven. Franks finished his season with three goals and one assist.

Irwin finished the season leading the SoCon with nine shutouts and second in the SoCon with 65 saves. Irwin is one shutout away from tying the school record with 18 overall.

The Phoenix finished third in the conference with a conference record of 4-2, and an overall record of 10-8-2.

"Soccer is a funny game in which dominance of an opponent is not necessarily reflected in the final score," Irwin said. "I think our opponents would also agree that we were much better than our record indicated."



Senior forward Justin Wyatt shields the ball from a Davidson player earlier this season. Wyatt is second all-time with the number points on a season with 79.

Phoenix falls short in pursuit of playoffs



Junior middle blocker Sarah Schermerhorn and junior outside hitter Lauren Copenhagen prepare for a block earlier this season. The Phoenix ended its season Sunday with a 23-8 overall record.

Jordan Scahill
Reporter

The Elon volleyball team finished its season this weekend with a 9-7 record in Southern Conference and a 23-8 overall record. The team lost a close match to Appalachian State on Saturday and another close match to Western Carolina Sunday.

After right side hitter sophomore Traci Stewart acquired a season-ending injury in the match against UNC Greensboro on Nov. 4, the Phoenix had to completely rework its lineup to make up for her loss.

"A player like Traci is hard to replace," Elon head coach Mary Tendler said. "And we have had a hard time adjusting to losing her on the court. We really struggled over the last couple of weeks."

Elon finished third in SoCon's North Division behind Samford University and Appalachian State University, falling short of the playoffs by just one match.

"We made some huge strides this year in accomplishing our team goals," Tendler said. "We had a long winning streak in the beginning of the year and experienced a lot of firsts, like sweeping Chattanooga and beating Samford for the first time. I am happy with our performance."

The Phoenix will graduate three seniors this year: Setter Emily Regan, and outside hitters Jessica Barrow Mandy Wilson.

"The three seniors will definitely be missed next year," Tendler said. "They provided us with so much both on and off the court and have had a large impact on our program."

When these seniors were freshmen, Elon had only eight

season wins. Each year, the team's record has been consistently improving, reaching a record-high this year.

Offensively, Stewart, sophomore outside hitter Caroline Lemke and junior middle blocker Sarah Schermerhorn topped the charts for the Phoenix this year. Lemke led the team with 270 kills and averaged 2.43 kills per set. Stewart was close behind with 258 season kills and Schermerhorn had 225.

"Our offense was really consistent this season, and the team really depended on them to put away big points," Tendler said.

Blocking was also a big part of the Phoenix's game this year. Lemke racked up 111 blocks this season, followed by Schermerhorn with 91 blocks and Stewart with 80 blocks.

Defensively, freshman Ali Deatsch led the team with 448 digs this season, averaging 3.83 digs per match.

"Deatsch really made the transition from high school to college ball well as an incoming freshman," Tendler said. "She shined this year."

The returners on the team will already start lifting this week to stay strong in preparation for next year's season. Most of the upperclassmen will be studying abroad during winter term, so Tendler said she plans on working with just the six freshmen throughout January.

Starting in February, the Phoenix will have two practices, three lifting sessions and three conditioning sessions a week. Two weeks before spring break the team will resume its normal practice schedule to get ready for spring ball.