

THE PENDULUM

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Headed for Madness?

Men's basketball team prepares for next phase of historic season

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THE PENDULUM

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

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MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
/	/	/	6 "Digital Humanities and Liberal Education" 7 p.m. LaRose Digital Theatre	7 Midnight Meals with Vital Signs 11 p.m. Irazu Coffee Shop	8 Fellows Weekend Begins	9 Faculty Recital 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium	
10 Linda Cykert & Christopher Caliendo Concert 3 p.m. Yeager Recital Hall	11 Resume Review Sessions SPDC — Office of Career Services	12 Peace Corps Info Session 5:30 p.m. Moseley 103	13 How to Find an Internship 6 p.m. Moseley 140	14 LEAD Program: Transformative Leadership 5:30 p.m. Oaks 212	15 Elon Law Open House 2:15 p.m.	16 Triad Chapter Wine & Design Painting 1 p.m. Jamestown, N.C.	
17 TBA	18 "Folklore on the Irish Border" 7:30 p.m. LaRose Digital Theatre	19 "Water: Humanity's Elixir" 7:30 p.m. Whitley Auditorium	For more event coverage visit The Pendulum online at www.elonpendulum.com.				/

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McCrory's job at liberal arts elicits controversy

Lauryl Fischer
Senior Reporter

Gov. Pat McCrory recently sparked a debate among educators when he claimed certain liberal arts degrees from public universities are not economically viable in the long run. He said such majors should be offered exclusively at private schools, sparking indignation among many members of the Elon University community.

Speaking in a radio interview in early February, McCrory said he plans to draft legislation to allocate state funding to public universities according to the professional skills their students attain, suggesting liberal arts programs, such as philosophy and gender studies, should receive lesser funding.

"I'm going to adjust my education curriculum to what business and commerce needs to get our kids jobs, as opposed to moving back in with their parents after they graduate with debt," McCrory said in the interview. "What are we teaching these courses for if they're not going to help get a job?"

As a private university, Elon would be largely unaffected by any budget reallocation set in motion by McCrory's potential legislation, but some community members adamantly disagreed with his comments. According to Nim Batchelor, head of the philosophy department, the value of an education is not simply determined by employment rate and salary.

"There are a series of domains that make for a full, rich human life that are distant from the economic realm," Batchelor said. "To say all values must reduce to economic values takes a very narrow conception about what human beings can be about."

The value of liberal arts

There is no precise calculation to determine the value of a liberal arts degree, but most educators agree liberal arts are not useless.

Philosophy, for example, emphasizes critical thinking, problem solving, adaptability, clear speaking, writing and ethical reasoning skills. These skills prepare a student for the workforce, according to Yoram Lubling, a philosophy professor at Elon.

"You might not find, immediately, the job you want," he said. "However, in the long run, I think in general, successful people are people who have liberal arts educations. A liberal arts education allows an individual to change careers, think critically and adapt to situations."

Although many agree liberal arts studies promote necessary professional skills, statistics don't clearly establish the value of such a degree.

Two studies offer conflicting findings. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) conducted a survey in 2012 that showed only 16 percent of employers looked for employees majoring in the social sciences and liberal arts, while 63 percent of employers preferred business majors.

In contrast, another 2012 survey, conducted by research and management firm Millennial Branding and Experience Inc., surveyed 250 employers and found 30 percent preferred employees with liberal arts educations, second only to engineering at 34 percent.

"There's this really incredible tension," said Stephen Bloch-Schulman, associate profes-

sor of philosophy at Elon. "Employers want students who have those skills, but they don't want the price and the very thing that teaches them those skills, which is liberal arts."

Regarding employment rates, the Center of Education and the Workforce (CEW) at Georgetown University conducted an extensive study on college unemployment in 2012. Their results revealed the unemployment rate among recent graduates with liberal arts degrees was 9.2 percent, compared to 7.7 percent for business majors. Liberal arts majors earn an average starting salary of \$31,000, while business majors earn \$39,000.

"The problem is not that liberal arts students can't get jobs," Bloch-Schulman said. "They do. But for a philosophy major, you don't always know what you're going to do. So it's not that the skills don't transfer. They do. It's just not immediately evident."

The cost of losing the liberal arts

Although Elon would not be directly affected, an increased emphasis on technology

and business classes could undermine Elon's liberal arts programs. Elon's most recent registrar report showed a 20 percent increase in the number of business majors since 2011, as well as a 1.8 percent decrease in the number of liberal arts majors.

But many communications and business students and faculty members still recognize the importance of the liberal arts. Many communications majors at Elon complete a major or minor outside their field.

"History has helped with my major," said sophomore Katie Maraghy, a broadcast journalism major. "It helps you look at things and put things into a broader context."

Raghu Tadepalli, dean of the School of Business, said both liberal arts and professional degrees offer advantages in the workplace.

"A good liberal arts degree prepares graduates to be critical thinkers, while a business degree provides graduates with the technical background for business and prepares them for positions of leadership," he said. "While there are fields of business where technical skills are necessary, there is a widespread recognition among employers that liberal arts graduates who can demonstrate and apply critical thinking skills add value to companies."

Liberal Arts Statistics

9.2 percent of the liberal arts graduates from Elon's Class of 2012 are currently unemployed.

7.7 percent of the business graduates from Elon's Class of 2012 are currently unemployed.

The average starting salary of liberal arts graduates is **\$31,000**.

The average starting salary of business graduates is **\$39,000**.

The number of business majors at Elon has increased by **20 percent** since 2011.

The number of liberal arts majors at Elon has decreased by **1.8 percent** since 2011.

Information courtesy of Elon Registrar Report, research conducted by the National Association of College Education and Georgetown University.



Gov. Pat McCrory called for legislation to allocate state funding to public universities based on the professional skills their students obtain, including business and finance and excluding liberal arts majors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

BY THE NUMBERS

Unemployment cuts hurt Alamance County's jobless

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

In the wake of the Great Recession, North Carolina borrowed funds from the federal government to pay for citizens' unemployment insurance. Now, the state is cutting benefits to help pay back that debt.

At the beginning of February, a bill was introduced in the N.C. House to reduce unemployment insurance from a maximum of \$535 to \$350 a week. Gov. Pat McCrory signed the bill into law Feb. 19.

The bill will most severely affect counties with high unemployment rates, such as Alamance County. In November 2012, the county reported an 8.9 percent unemployment rate.

To earn unemployment benefits, a person must have worked full-time for at least 26 weeks, the reason they lost their job cannot be their fault and they must be actively searching for work. Some unemployed people experience the "Discouraged Worker Effect," which causes them to drop out of the workforce altogether because their benefits have run out.

"Now this group that's not getting benefits anymore, they might just drop off and stop looking for work," said Mark Kurt, assistant professor of economics at Elon University. "I'm kind of anticipating that we're going to have some more discouraged workers in North Carolina as a result of this."

Loaves & Fishes, a nonprofit food pantry in Alamance County where many Elon students volunteer, works with unemployed people in the area to budget their current funds and work on getting their GED, in addition to providing groceries.

While the maximum unemployment payout in North Carolina was \$535, the typical unemployed person who comes to Loaves & Fishes receives between \$200 and \$300 a week, according to Brenda Allen, executive director of Loaves & Fishes.

Allen said most people she talks to use

their unemployment insurance to keep their home and other belongings. Food is often a secondary consideration.

"Typically that will help to pay their rent, some of their utilities," she said. "Certainly not their food, but their utilities and car payments and insurance. A lot of things have to go unpaid."

In addition to cutting the size of payments, the bill trimmed the duration of unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 12-20 weeks, depending on a person's previous income.

"It's losing more than just going from \$500 a week to \$350 for a family," Kurt said. "Everyone who's on unemployment is losing, potentially, some of the benefits, but also they're losing the unemployment insurance because the duration has been cut shorter. I crunched the numbers and that could potentially affect 40 percent of unemployed people in North Carolina."

For people in the Alamance-Burlington area, these cuts make up a significant percentage of the income they receive, and Allen said people who come to Loaves & Fishes talk about the coming cuts every day.

"They cry and they say, 'I don't know what I'm going to do,' 'I'd be better off dead,'" Allen said. "There are no jobs here. For the people that we typically see here, they can't afford to drive to Chapel Hill or Greensboro. They need a job that's close by where they live."

Because of the cuts to unemployment benefits, the \$2.5 billion borrowed by the state for unemployment insurance is projected to be repaid by 2015. Without the cuts, the debt would likely be repaid by 2018. Each year the debt goes unpaid, unemployment taxes on employers increase by \$21.

"The unemployment insurance liability that they'll have to pay per employee wouldn't be as high as it could have been," Kurt said. "So that makes them more willing to hire somebody, especially if their liability is going to be higher because of lowered benefits."

Part of the law McCrory signed also

includes a raise in unemployment taxes, mainly by removing a law that said "positive balanced" companies paid no unemployment tax, to help pay back the debt. Between 1992 and 2000, North Carolina cut unemployment taxes multiple times to its current 1.2 percent rate.

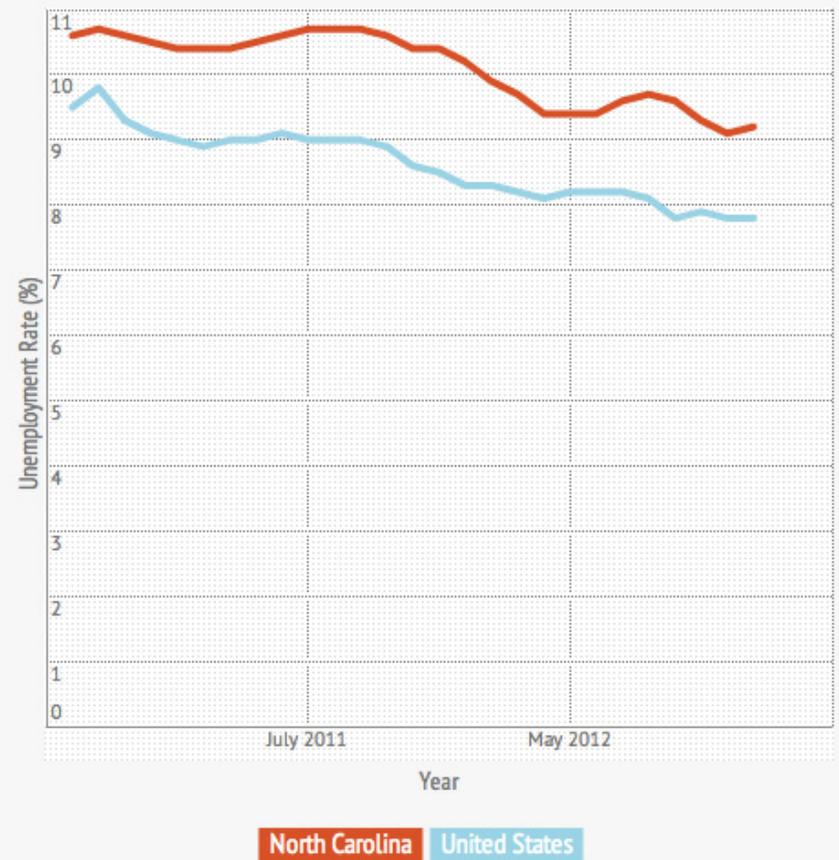
"If you cut revenues, that's going to lower the reserve account that they have available to pay out unemployment claims," Kurt said. "Also, North Carolina has very high unemployment. Through the recession, we've fared worse than the

average in the U.S. as a whole."

For the people Allen works with, these cuts represent a loss of income and a sudden need to find some other way to supplement their income until they find a job.

"There's only a certain amount of time that you can rely on friends and family to help with utilities," she said. "They have to have a job or have some income or get into some sort of federal or state funded program, or they end up on the street, or at a shelter or on the railroad tracks."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S. VS. IN N.C.



Information courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor

Toxic mold forces students to evacuate Virginia residence hall

Lauryl Fischer
Senior Reporter

At first, freshman Jessica Grembowski and her roommate didn't notice the toxic mold growing on their windowsill; they thought it was nothing but dust accumulation. But then Residence Life told them they had to evacuate their room — in just three hours.

“Our suitemates were getting visits from Physical Plant, but not us,” Grembowski said. “During the break, they bleached their room. And then when they visited West Area, they were told to move out and out of nowhere told us to move out. It was very short notice. We had to ask for an extension because it was such short notice.”

Grembowski's room is just one of about 15 mold cases in Virginia residence hall. Since as early as Winter Term, an unidentified species of mold has wreaked havoc on Virginia residents and forced many students to seek refuge in other halls. The mold, though seemingly harmless at first, caused a few residents, such as Grembowski's roommate, freshman Erin Riccio, to have allergic reactions.

“She was getting sicker and sicker and she wasn't getting better,” Grembowski said. “She'd have a fever or a cough, and we thought she needed fresh air, so we would open our window, which would create condensation and make the mold grow.”

Freshman Tess Pearson was the first student relocated because of the mold. She had reported mold problems back in September and thought the problem was fixed until she returned from winter break to find the green-black mold spreading from the windowsill onto the walls and ceiling. Pearson and her roommate moved to Sloan for the entirety of Winter Term.

“We were told it would be fixed in two, maybe two and a half weeks. It took them the entire Winter Term,” Pearson said. “The moisture and humidity causing the mold was apparently because the windows were completely rotted and didn't keep any of the weather outside.”

After Physical Plant bleached the walls and replaced the rotted windows, Pearson and her roommate moved back in before the start of spring semester.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALEXANDER O'QUINN

A Physical Plant worker cleans up mold around a windowsill in Virginia residence hall. The mold is toxic and has forced residents to vacate the hall throughout winter.

Since dealing with Pearson's case, Physical Plant has become more efficient with responding to the mold outbreak. Grembowski was displaced to a dorm in West for a week, while all of first floor Virginia was evacuated for just three hours to do an entire bleaching of the hall.

Elaine Turner, director of Residence Life, visited Virginia to speak to students affected by the mold and kept Virginia residents updated with emails concerning the situation and tips on how to prevent the mold from growing.

“Residence Life worked with students to quell any fears, if they had any,” Turner said. “We tried to keep students in the historic

neighborhood where they lived. We tried to provide as little disruption as possible.”

Robert Buchholz, assistant vice president for facilities management at Physical Plant, attributed the rapid growth of mold to the unusually humid winter season this year.

“We have wider swings than normal for temperature,” Buchholz said. “The precipitation is above the recent yearly average, plus there has been more rain than snow due to the warm temperatures.”

Because of the recent wide swings of temperature, condensation formed on the interior of many of Virginia's windows. The cold moisture on and around the windows, combined with the warm air in the rooms, pro-

vided an environment for the mold to grow.

In addition to bleaching the rooms in Virginia, Physical Plant placed dehumidifiers in the halls to lower the humidity level. They plan to continue monitoring the spaces until the humidity in Virginia stays at or below 50 percent. No other residence halls have experienced a similar mold problem this year.

“If students in our residence halls or other apartments see condensation on the windows and window sills, they should clean up the moisture right away,” Buchholz said. “If this condition persists, they should call our service desk for university housing or their landlord for off-campus housing to report the condition.”

North Carolina legislature may lift statewide fracking moratorium

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Money doesn't grow on trees, but it may flow underground. And in six months, North Carolina may start digging.

The buried treasure is natural gas, an increasingly lucrative commodity that promises to create jobs and strengthen the state's export market — if it can be extracted safely. The N.C. Senate recently passed a bill allowing natural gas companies to apply for drilling permits March 1, 2015. Though the bill hasn't yet reached the N.C. House, its preliminary passage signaled to some that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is all but imminent. During the fracking process, the shale formation is drilled horizontally and injected with pressurized fluid to release the gas within the rock.

"I think the bill is a motivational force moving across North Carolina to get things going," said Jim Womack, Mining and Energy Com-

mission (MEC) chairman. "The more we put off a target date for going live with drilling, the more likely it is to drag out. It puts a mark on the wall. We're going to get this done."

Womack said an exploratory well might be drilled in Lee County within the next six months. The U.S. Geological Survey estimated North Carolina has between 779 billion and 3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas underground, but some think the state has much more. An exploratory well would yield a better idea of what's down there.

Although North Carolina lawmakers initially called for a statewide moratorium on fracking while the MEC assesses the potential effects of shale gas extraction in the Triassic Basins — shale reserves primarily concentrated under Lee, Chatham and Moore counties — recent political shifts have brought natural gas to the legislative forefront.

The debate about fracking has split the state of North Carolina. Some balk at the en-

vironmental risks of drilling near groundwater aquifers, while others bank on the economic prospect of tapping into the domestic energy market.

Other states, including Pennsylvania, North Dakota, Texas and Colorado, are already capitalizing on their liquid gold mines. The 2012 Annual Energy Outlook, published last summer by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, predicted natural gas exports would overtake imports in as little as four years.

"The technology to extract it is changing rapidly and progressing rapidly to the point it's almost unbounded," Womack said. "What it means on the macroeconomic scale has enormous implications. We're going to pull ourselves out of the economic doldrums that we've been in for the last several years and we're going to help the world economy."

Of those concerned about the risks of fracking, many fear the chemical-laced water used in the drilling process will seep from the shale

layer into groundwater aquifers. A 2012 report by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources acknowledged several instances of groundwater contamination near hydraulically fractured wells in other states though it noted some water quality problems were the result of industrial accidents that took place either before or after the fracking process.

"There is not a single state that has demonstrated that they can avoid problems, even with really deep shale formations," said Hope Taylor, executive director of Clean Water for North Carolina.

Others have formed a more moderate opinion. Jerry Dorsett, an environmental studies professor at Elon University, expressed his concern regarding landowners' mineral rights and the environmental impact of industrial development related to fracking. But he acknowledged the potential benefits of extracting natural gas.

"I think it can be done safely," he said. "The question is, will it be done safely?"

Elon partners with Peace Corps to promote global volunteerism

Cleo Dan
Senior Reporter

Elon University recently established a partnership with the Peace Corps to prepare students for the program and for working abroad.

The new Peace Corps Prep Program is an interdisciplinary curriculum that teaches students the necessary skills for success in the Peace Corps. Although the program does not count toward the completion of a major or minor, students may earn a Peace Corps recognized cer-

tificate upon completing certain courses.

Steve Moore, professor of AgroEcology, said many Elon students are already on track to acquire the Peace Corps certificate. Classes required to successfully complete the program range from foreign languages to regional stud-

ies.

"By the end of this semester, we might have 30 people that are tracking themselves for this goal of the certificate," Moore said. "I'm going to guess that maybe 10 students will apply and maybe three to five will choose to serve."

According to the Peace Corps website, more than 8,000 volunteers work throughout the world on behalf of the organization. Fourteen Elon graduates are currently serving as volunteers and roughly 100 alumni have participated, Moore said.

"The program was a perfect match, and Elon is the perfect place because of the ethos of the university: global citizenship, service and study abroad."

Elon is the sixth university in the nation to institute the Peace Corps Prep Program within its curriculum. Moore said student interest in the program is already high.

Junior Rebecca Kennedy said she believes harnessing the opportunities Elon offers students will help prepare them to serve abroad upon graduation.

"The first time I thought about the Peace Corps was after studying abroad," Kennedy said. "I feel like a lot of students who want to go into the Peace Corps will participate in the program."



MARILJO SAULON | Staff Photographer

Steve Moore, professor of AgroEcology, helped create the Peace Corps Prep Program at Elon. The program will teach students necessary skills for the Peace Corps.

Students across North Carolina push for gender-neutral housing

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

On-campus housing at college has historically been structured according to traditional gender norms, with boys and girls in separate rooms or separate buildings. But students at Elon University and other North Carolina colleges are seeking to change that.

“College should not be a time of being fragmented and having your own self-identity issues compounded,” said freshman Shirley Buono, a student who is pushing for gender-neutral housing on Elon’s campus. “Forcing people to choose male or female, this or that, you’re really losing out on some of the great complexities of life.”

Buono and other Elon students filed paperwork last month to create something similar to a learning community that would not divide students by gender, but too few students agreed to live on the hall.

Supporters of gender-neutral housing on

Elon’s campus are concerned many students may not identify with their biological sexes.

“If someone is transgender and they don’t feel comfortable living with someone who the university has decided is their same sex, but they identify as the opposite gender, that’s an unsafe situation,” said sophomore Robert Linklater, a student who worked with Buono to create a gender non-specific housing community.

Other universities in North Carolina, including Duke and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have established gender-neutral on-campus residence areas. UNC Chapel Hill will offer the arrangement for the first time this fall.

“In 2006 there was a transgender student on campus that needed a safe place to live in, but Chapel Hill wasn’t able to accommodate that,” said Kevin Claybren, student coordinator for the Gender Non-Specific Housing Coalition at UNC Chapel Hill.

Next semester, the university will offer



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AL DRAGO

students the opportunity to live in suites where each room will still have students of the same sex, but the connected rooms may have students of the opposite sex. Campus apartments may also house opposite sexes.

“We acknowledge this is a stepping stone, so after the pilot program is done, after the research is done, we’ll get to where we need to be,” Claybren said.

Senior Laura Lee Sturm, vice president of Spectrum, Elon’s queer-straight alliance, is also working on a proposal to make areas like the Oaks apartments and the upcoming Global Neighborhood gender non-specific, so that students of opposite sexes have the option of living together.

“You can have it at Mill Point, but that’s only for juniors and seniors and it’s out of the price range for a lot of people,” Sturm said.

While several universities in some states, including Maryland and Michigan, have gender-neutral housing, Sturm said she is inclined to believe the change will eventually come to Elon after UNC Chapel Hill approved the program in a somewhat conservative state.

“It’s kind of spreading like wildfire. Now that a couple schools have done it, everyone wants to do it,” Sturm said. “Every school has to have it to compete with each other.”

Kirstin Ringelberg, LGBTQ office coordinator, has advocated for gender non-specific bathrooms as well as housing on Elon’s campus. She said dividing housing by gender reinforces the traditional idea of what being a man or woman means.

“People choose their roommates now. Why not really let them choose?” Ringelberg said. “Many female-identified people would still pick female-identified people, but why not let them choose to room with whom they feel safest instead of dictating that based on false ideas about sex and gender?”

Linklater agreed. He said a person should not have to feel uncomfortable in their living situation on campus if they are transgender or do not identify as a male or female.

“If a person identifies as female and they want to live with a cisgender female or a transgender female, I feel like that should be accepted,” Linklater said.

Although Buono and others did not get enough students to sign up, she said she received a lot of positive feedback from the Elon faculty members with whom she met.

“When you go into an office, I’m always really surprised that they support the LGBTQ community,” Buono said. “It’s always a shock, and a good chunk of the people I met had Safe Zone stickers and rainbow pins.”

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Numen Lumen Pavilion opens for community worship

Corinne James
Senior Reporter

The Numen Lumen Pavilion, located in Elon University's Academic Village, is now open to students and other Elon community members. The pavilion was designed to support all religions and levels of spirituality.

The pavilion houses the Truitt Center and the Elon Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society, as well as a large multi-purpose room and kitchen to provide student organizations with a place to meet.

According to Jim Piatt, vice president for University Advancement, the construction of the multi-faith center aligns with the Elon Commitment, a strategic plan to enhance the university's academic and residential environments.

"The pavilion is promoting Elon's goal to create a diverse and peaceful community," Piatt said.

"Numen Lumen" will be held in the multi-faith center every Thursday, when College Chapel used to be held. "Numen Lumen," which means "spiritual and in-

tellectual light," will allow the campus community to unite and reflect on spiritual commitments and academic pursuits, according to the Office of Religious Life.

From 9:50-10:20 a.m., faculty, guest speakers and students will give presentations and join the community in prayer and meditation. The weekly event is open to all students and faculty members for a time of reflection and interfaith inspiration.

In addition to the sacred space provided for "Numen Lumen," the pavilion houses offices for Chaplain Jan Fuller and other religious and spiritual life staff members, as well as The Richard McBride Gathering Space, a multi-purpose room for dinners and speakers.

A student lounge, a small library, a classroom and prayer and meditation rooms are also within the center, which is open to the community from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

"The advancement of diversity in this community is wonderful to see," Piatt said. "We are excited for the future of the Numen Lumen Pavilion in the lives of Elon students and faculty."



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor
Students gather at the Numen Lumen Pavilion, Elon's newest center for religious and spiritual life, which opened March 5. The pavilion was designed to support all religions and levels of spirituality on campus.

Recycling at Elon becomes nationwide competitive activity

Eric Dinkins
Reporter

RecycleMania at Elon University is now a competition. Though the university has participated in the national program each February for the past seven years, it has never before competed for rankings.

"Elon is really competing against itself from year to year, but the overall comparisons with every school entered in the competition is fun to see," said David Worden, director of environmental services.

RecycleMania, an eight-week contest promoting waste reduction on college campuses, began Feb. 3. The university is competing in individual categories for weighted cardboard, bottles and cans and mixed paper, as well as overall weight

volume, which combines the weight of all the categories. In order to prevent larger universities from having a population advantage, the competition calculates recyclables per capita to account for the ratio of students to recyclables.

This year, 402 universities are contending for the top spot of the per capita category, and Elon is currently ranked 181. Of the 12 North Carolina universities participating, Elon is ranked seventh, but the margins of the per capita category are slim. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is ranked 76, but its recyclables-per-capita is 3.72 compared to Elon's 2.02. Duke University is ranked 44 with a per-capita recyclable rate of 5.31.

Regardless of Elon's current rank, Worden said the competition has always

been about Elon's growing emphasis on sustainability, not just winning.

"Elon got involved with the goal to improve participation and awareness toward recycling on campus," he said. "Trends in recycling habits change over time and it's not so much the weight volume that is important as much as it is continuing to recycle properly and divert recyclables from going to the landfill."

Freshman Meredith Berk said she is happy to participate in RecycleMania.

"It places an emphasis on being a sustainable university," she said.

Freshman Ciera Martinez agreed. She said she thinks RecycleMania is a way to encourage better sustainable practices.

"Many students don't recycle as much as they could," she said.

Although Worden emphasized the

importance of campus participation and awareness, he also recognizes the significance of improvement. He said the university is attempting to outperform the previous year by weight volume.

If progress continues at its current rate, the goal may be achieved. The university has recycled more than 16,000 pounds since the contest began, and there are six weeks left. Last year, Elon finished RecycleMania with nearly 60,000 pounds of recycled material.

But the university has some catching up to do if it plans to meet the per capita benchmarks set by previous years. Elon completed RecycleMania with a recycling rate of 8.83 recyclables per capita in 2011 and 8.11 recyclables per capita in 2012. The final results of the competition will be announced April 12.

False fire alarms reaffirm safety, annoy firemen

Cleo Dan
Senior Reporter

Standing outside one's residence hall in nothing but pajamas and slippers at 3 a.m. is a memory shared by many Elon University students. It is not uncommon for several fire engines to appear on Elon University's campus in the early hours of the morning, or anytime during the day, in response to false fire alarms, and the Elon Fire Department is getting annoyed.

From Aug. 1, 2012 to Feb. 26, 2013, there have been 116 false fire alarms on campus, according to Scott Jean, chief of security at Campus Safety and Police. While many students regard false alarms as temporary inconveniences, firefighters must arrive at the scene of the incident within minutes.

"People do get frustrated, especially when

it's a student who put a burrito in the microwave for 40 minutes instead of four and left the building," said junior Danton Kerz, a volunteer with the Elon Fire Rescue team.

According to Kerz, cooking mishaps are usually the source of false alarms, followed by excess shower steam.

Most of Elon's residence halls and on-campus apartments are equipped with stoves and microwaves, providing ample opportunity for smoky accidents.

"I walked away for a second, and all of a sudden my pan consisting of Pam and potatoes was literally a hot mess," said an Elon student who requested anonymity. "I felt particularly stupid because it seemed like everyone in the building was inconveniently in the middle of a shower and had to run out of the building in towels. I felt bad that I wasted the resources of the fire

department."

Although fire alarms are triggered all too often on Elon's campus, the Elon Fire Department treats every alert as a working structure fire or residential fire until proved otherwise. In 1923, Elon's campus was nearly destroyed by a raging structural fire. A minimum of four fire engines will arrive with four to 10 firefighters at any campus location, according to Kerz.

"I think that the fire department works very hard to fight the urge to say, 'Oh, it is just another false alarm' and not show up as ready as possible because the one day that we down our guard and don't respond, that's when we will have a working structure fire," he said.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, cooking accidents account for 88 percent of fires at universities, yet the majority of kitchen-based incidents merely trigger the alarm with excess

smoke. All apartments located in Crest, Station at Mill Point, Danieley Center and the Oaks have kitchens or kitchenettes, and each hall in Colonnades is equipped with a full kitchen.

"We would rather that our fire detection systems were overly sensitive, as opposed to not sensitive enough, because that one time there is the fire, it could make the difference between life and death," Kerz said.

Jean said he agrees it is better the fire alarms sound regularly because of burned food and other minor triggers, because unresponsive alarms could result in disaster.

"They are not technically false alarms since the system is doing its job," Jean said.

Jean said Elon students can prevent false fire alarms by using the microwave properly, monitoring shower steam and simply being conscientious of the alarms' oversensitivity.

Elon Poll results show high support for gun control, low support for Congress

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

Sequestration, gun control and the state legislature were the big questions in the most recent Elon Poll, which released results March 1 and March 4. The live-caller telephone poll of 891 residents was conducted Feb. 24-28, with a margin of error of 3.28 percentage points.

Regarding sequestration, the poll found 36 percent of North Carolinians were "very worried" about the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts the sequester enacted March 1, and 34 percent said they were "somewhat worried."

"I think the uncertainty really creates the fear," said Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon Poll. "But also people know that the defense industry is so substantial here that if across-the-board cuts are going to disproportionately affect defense, they probably have friends and family that are going to be affected."

Only 11 percent of North Carolinians expressed approval of Congress, a rate Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll, called "dismally low."

The poll also inquired about Gov. Pat McCrory's performance since assuming of-

fice in January. Forty-two percent expressed approval, but 32 percent said they didn't have an opinion. This is how new governors are typically rated, especially at a time when the North Carolina General Assembly is highly active, according to Husser.

"The positive thing for McCrory is that, even though it suggests that he should do more to be known in the state, it also means he has an opportunity to craft his image," he said.

North Carolinians also weighed in on gun control. In a May 2012 Elon Poll, 44 percent of respondents said gun laws should remain unchanged, but after the mass shootings in Aurora, Colo., and Newtown, Conn., that took place last year, North Carolinians' opinions seem to have changed.

Ninety-three percent supported background checks for guns and 83 percent supported waiting periods to buy guns, numbers so high that pollsters triple-checked the results. Fifty-five percent supported laws limiting the size of ammunition clips and bans on semi-automatic assault rifles.

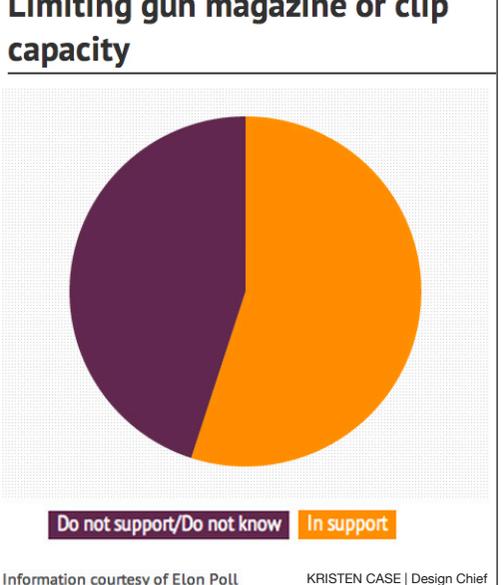
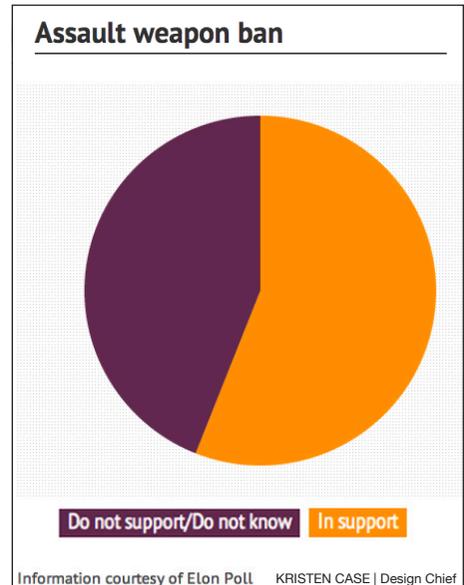
"There are some common sense policies, like a background check or a waiting period, that are reasonable," Fernandez said. "But when you start banning things, people

go, 'That's an infringement of my rights.'"

The poll also asked about voter ID laws, which would require people to show a government ID, such as a driver's license, in order to vote. The question was partially inspired by a national press conference in favor of voter ID laws held March 5 in Raleigh, according to Husser. Seventy-two percent of respondents said they would support stricter voter ID laws. The pollsters also found nearly 97 percent of respon-

dents had a driver's license. According to the N.C. State Board of Elections, around 500,000 North Carolinians, or 7.8 percent of registered voters who voted in past elections, did not have a valid driver's license.

"Most of the people we know have some type of I.D., so I think people think it's just common sense," Fernandez said. "I don't think they think about the costs or benefits."



Who's paying for your electricity?

Ethan Smith
News Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN HASSELL

Mountains don't grow back. They're not trees that produce seeds that can be replanted when one is cut down. When a mountain is gone, it's permanent.

"They're not just scraping off parts of these mountains," said Steve Hawk, the executive editor of *Sierra* magazine who worked on the Cost of Coal project for the Sierra Club. "They're taking a five or 600-foot mountain and turning it into a 100-foot mountain."

The consequence isn't simply loss of land, either. People who work

in the industry and live around mining sites pay the cost with the loss of health and life.

"We've only been doing this for about 130 years," said Derek Mullins, marketing and development coordinator of Appalshop in Whitesburg, Ky. "The cost we've paid in such a short timespan is tremendous."

Mullins wished to clarify all views represented in this article are his own and are not affiliated with his employer, Appalshop.

Fundamental issues from the start

Coal mining towns in central Appalachia — Eastern Kentucky, West Virginia, Southwestern Virginia and Eastern Tennessee — weren't built because they provided any known advantage over settling elsewhere. According to Mullins, towns were built where the coal was for extraction purposes only.

After companies built the towns, they started controlling aspects of people's day-to-day lives.

"The companies paid in company scrip," Mullins said. "That scrip could only be used at the company store, or at company owned businesses in the towns. So right there you've got a dependency being built on the coal companies."

Mullins also said the only investment by companies was to get the resources out, and the companies had no attachment to the people living on the land. When companies came in to mine the land, they only bought mineral rights to the land — not the land itself.

"Nobody could've foreseen what the companies were going to do with those rights when they first came in," Mullins said. "Let's say we're a family here in Eastern Kentucky in the late 1800s and a coal company comes and says they

want to buy the rights to what's under us. We're gonna look at them like they're crazy."

But purchasing mineral rights to the land granted the coal company access to the coal beneath the family's land, allowing them to extract resources to the detriment of the people living near the mining sites.

The creation of a 'monoeconomy'

Dependence on coal companies permeates the daily life of Appalachian people.

"Growing up in Appalachia, you begin to become dependent on the coal industry," said Bill Price, part of the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program and the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Campaign. "You feel trapped."

Price's father was a coal miner, and he grew up in West Virginia.

Dependence on the coal industry stems from "all the eggs being put in the coal basket," Mullins said. "With the coal industry, it's boom and bust depending on the demand for coal. When people are dependent on something for an income that's trapped in a boom and bust cycle, they get scared to consider other options."

Mullins' father began working in the coalmines in his late teens.

"My dad had no other choice but to mine," Mullins said. "He had a kid on the way — me — and school wasn't an option. Coal miners make good money. You start out at about \$15 to \$20 an hour, and that's an attractive prospect for a lot of people that need money."

According to Mullins, this substantial income attracts many young people who feel as though they have no other option. But he was able to stay out of the mines because his father kept him out.

"My dad was absolutely adamant about keeping me and my brother away from the coalmines," he said. "He just didn't want us to go in there."

Health costs of mountaintop removal mining

"Whenever you have a community that is located near a mining site, you see an increase in things like birth defects and a decrease in life expectancy," Price said.

Dr. Michael Hendryx, an associate professor of community medicine at West Virginia University, has co-authored studies linking adverse health effects to mountaintop removal coal mining.

One study published in the Journal of Community Health found people who lived near mountaintop removal sites had cancer rates twice as high as those living elsewhere in Appalachia. Another study found living near a mountaintop removal coal mining site causes an increase in birth defects.

"We're no longer just speculating about

these health impacts," said Dave Cooper of the Mountain Top Removal Road Show. "We know."

During the process of mountaintop removal coal mining, "they blast away chunks of the mountain to get to the seams of coal in the mountain," Cooper said. "The coal seams are like icing in a layer cake, the whole mountain isn't made of coal. So they use Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO), the same stuff used in the 1970 University of Wisconsin-Madison protests, to blast apart the mountain."

After the top of the mountain is blasted away, the debris, called "spoil" or "overburden," is pushed into surrounding valleys.

"When the overburden is pushed into these valleys where people live, they're contaminating the mountain streams that so many people depend on," Cooper said.

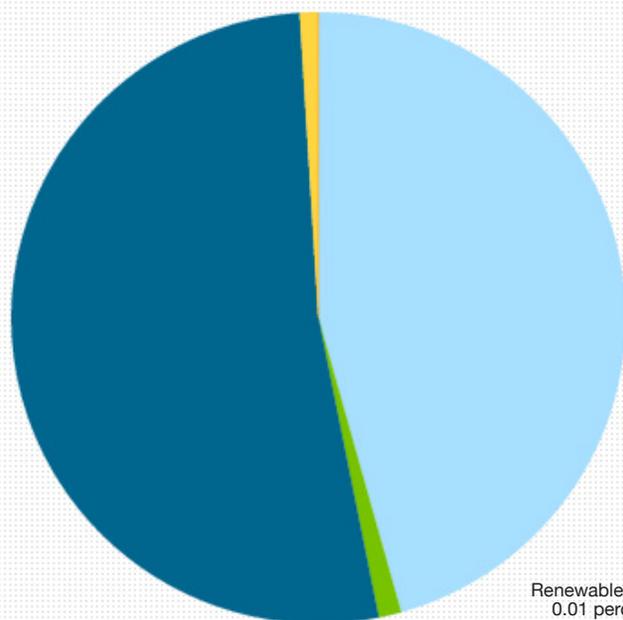
Scientific evidence confirms Cooper's statements.

"We've found high levels of selenium in the water supplies of these communities," Price said. "This impacts the fresh water streams and even affects Appalachian culture. Water has a cultural aspect for Appalachian people. We like to fish, and when the water is contaminated we can't even do that."

Aside from adverse physical health effects, coal mining comes with psychological consequences.

"You never felt like you could get ahead unless you moved," Price said. "We'd save up some money and then my father's mine would close and we'd have to live off the money we'd saved

ELON'S ENERGY SOURCES



Renewables account for 0.01 percent of Elon's energy sources and is so small a portion it cannot be seen in the graph.

Coal Natural Gas Nuclear Hydroelectric Renewables

Information courtesy of Elaine Durr, Director of Sustainability KRISTEN CASE | Design Chief



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN HASSELL

Coal miners prepare to descend into the mines for a day of work. Many miners began working as teenagers.

until he could work again.”

Price said this inability to plan ahead creates a culture where the hope of planning for the future is removed.

Mullins experienced a different kind of psychological consequence from thinking about death on a day-to-day basis.

Mullins' father worked a lot of overtime, he said, but that didn't ease the mental toll of suspecting the worst.

“When your father's shift ends at one and it's four in the afternoon and he isn't back yet, it's hard to fight the urge to think something has gone wrong,” he said.

Mullins said the high rate of accidents in the mines contributed to this mindset.

“I was raised a Baptist and we're taught to believe that death kind of comes like a thief in the night,” he said. “But mining creates this culture where death is on a schedule and that really messes with people.”

From 1880 to 1910, the first few decades of coal mining, thousands of miners died. According to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, mining caused more than 3,200 deaths in 1907 alone.

From 1936 to 2007, safety in the mines improved, but nearly 7,500 men were reported killed in mining accidents. More than half a million were injured during this time period.

Mullins' uncle lost his legs in a coal mining accident. He said this made him realize what coal miners are paid in salary is a fraction of what workers in the industry pay.

“When my uncle lost his legs it got me thinking,” Mullins said. “How much would I sell my legs for?”

Environmental impacts of mining

When a mountaintop is removed, trees, topsoil and biodiversity are removed with it, wreaking environmental havoc on the valleys below.

The Reclamation Act of 1977 declares the land that was mined must be “returned to a higher and better use,” Cooper said. But according to Cooper, coal companies mainly spread grass seed on the top of a flat mountain.

“The grass doesn't absorb water, and the forests that were removed soak up about 75 percent of rain water,” Cooper said. “So when the water isn't absorbed, it creates runoff from the mining sites and causes flash flooding in the communities below.”

Nearly 1.2 million acres of mountaintop, or more than 500 mountains, have been destroyed

as of 2009, according to a study by Appalachian Voices. That equates to a quarter-mile wide strip of destruction stretching from New York to San Francisco.

In another study by Appalachian Voices in 2010, 366 out of 410 reclaimed mountaintop removal sites surveyed had no form of verifiable post-mining development, excluding forestry and pasture.

The sites were used for industrial parks, oil and gas fields, golf courses, airports, municipal parks, one hospital, one federal prison and one all-terrain vehicle training center.

Paying the cost of electrifying your lightbulb

“People that live here pay with their health, with their livelihood,” said Donna Branham, a member of Keepers of the Mountains. “It sucks the soul right out of them.”

According to Branham, if people lived in central Appalachia and saw what native Appalachian people see, they would see whole communities wiped out where people have been pushed out by mining, a depressed youth and an increase in rates of children being diagnosed with autism, seizures and cancers.

Mountaintop removal mining also causes a substantial loss of jobs compared to underground coal mining.

“One dragline replaces 50 workers,” Branham said.

Cooper agreed the usage of large machinery for greater efficiency in coal production costs miners their jobs.

“The coal industry is not interested in creating jobs,” Cooper said. “The coal industry is interested in making money.”

In West Virginia alone, the number of jobs provided by the coal industry has dropped from 120,000 in the 1960s to 15,000 today. In Kentucky, fewer than 18,000 miners are employed today.

Byproducts of mountaintop removal mining directly affect community members that live near these sites. The noise and dust of blasting can often knock houses off their foundations.

“They let off shots that tore the foundation of my parents' house apart. The chimney pulled away from the house. The roof leaked. Their life was just miserable,” Branham said in an interview with the Sierra Club for the Cost of Coal project. “The breaking point came one evening when my dad was getting out of the bathtub. It was around seven in the evening, and they weren't supposed to be blasting after 5 p.m. They



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN HASSELL
A train transports coal from Appalachia to power plants nationwide where it can be burned for energy.

let off a big blast and the house shook like there was an earthquake. My dad had a heart attack.”

According to Hawk, mining is an issue that has pitted people that are dependent on it for their livelihood against the community members who have been destroyed by it.

“What sickens me about this is that it not only destroys the land, but that there's just a handful of people at the top making tons of money off of it,” Hawk said.

And according to Branham, community members are terrified to speak out against the coal companies.

“People are afraid that if they say anything against coal companies that they, or somebody they know, will lose their jobs,” Branham said.

But according to Branham, younger generations of Appalachians are beginning to speak out and become aware of what's happening

with mountaintop removal.

The coal company that runs the mine just over the ridge from where Branham resides is constantly moving her property markers when they come to survey the water supply, she said. This caused her 12-year-old grandson to ask his grandfather what he was going to do when the coal company came for their land.

His grandfather simply replied, “They can have it over my dead body.”

Branham said Americans have to begin thinking about where their energy is coming from and how to use it wisely. Appalachian people pay too great a cost to an extractive industry, she said.

“I can tell you the cost of flipping on your light switch,” she said. “It's a small little 2-year-old boy that died from a brain tumor at the bottom of this holler. He paid that price.” §

Cutting liberal arts funding is counterproductive

A liberal arts education, an integral part of the American collegiate system, helps mold students into well-rounded, globally conscious citizens with a more complex understanding of society's needs and challenges. Despite the historic relevance of liberal arts curriculums, majors in the humanities and social sciences have been scrutinized in recent months by politicians and school administrations alike.

Catalyzed by sweeping budget cuts and fiscal shortcomings, debate has emerged concerning the practicality of liberal arts majors. Despite the perception that these majors lack real world application, they remain a crucial part of the American collegiate tradition.

Coupled with public university overcrowding and underfunding, concerns about the allocation of state funds and subsidies have caused politicians to express their growing disdain with equal state support of all areas of study.

By introducing bills in which state institutions would charge less for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degrees than those in the liberal arts, the governors of Florida, North Carolina and Texas have effectively communicated liberal arts majors are a waste of state money.

Many administrations are already choosing to allocate their academic resources for STEM programs in lieu of the liberal arts. Emory University recently made major cuts to its journalism and visual arts programs. Trinity University, St.

Mary's University and the University of the Incarnate Word are doing away with their liberal arts majors in favor of professional and "high demand" degrees, namely business administration.

On the state level, this reallocation of funds will lead to a slippery slope that could potentially diminish the role of liberal arts programs so much that they become obsolete.

As a private university, Elon will not be directly affected by cuts to state university funding or decreases in subsidies based on major. Elon's embrace of the liberal arts continues to garner support as one of the essential elements of the school's growth. Elite, private liberal arts universities feel the least pressure to change. That being said, liberal arts curriculums at smaller and less endowed schools are more likely to fall victim to this shift in higher education.

The move away from liberal arts degrees and toward "job producing" degrees comes conveniently in a time of job uncertainty. As more students perceive a shortage of jobs, they abandon their interests in the arts in favor of job security.

But this line of thought is misguided, given that liberal arts majors have a wide range of core skills and, more importantly, they know how to solve problems. In the past two years alone, more than half a dozen Rhodes Scholars have come from public institutions in the United States, all of which offer degrees in the liberal arts.

Former Whitman College president

Thomas Cronin's definition of the liberal arts as "freeing us from prejudice, dogmatism, and parochialism, from complacency, sentimentality and hypocrisy, from sloppy reasoning and careless writing" is especially telling of their importance.

At Elon, the liberal arts curriculum prepares graduates of all majors to communicate, research, think critically and assume leadership roles. Recognizing the importance of a diverse education, Elon

requires students in traditionally professional majors, such as business and engineering, to take liberal arts classes. Elon recognizes the importance of combining elements from both areas to help students develop varied skill sets.

Elon's curriculum serves as a model for educational ideals in this country. Cutting liberal arts programs is not only misguided — it also has the potential to stifle higher learning for years to come.

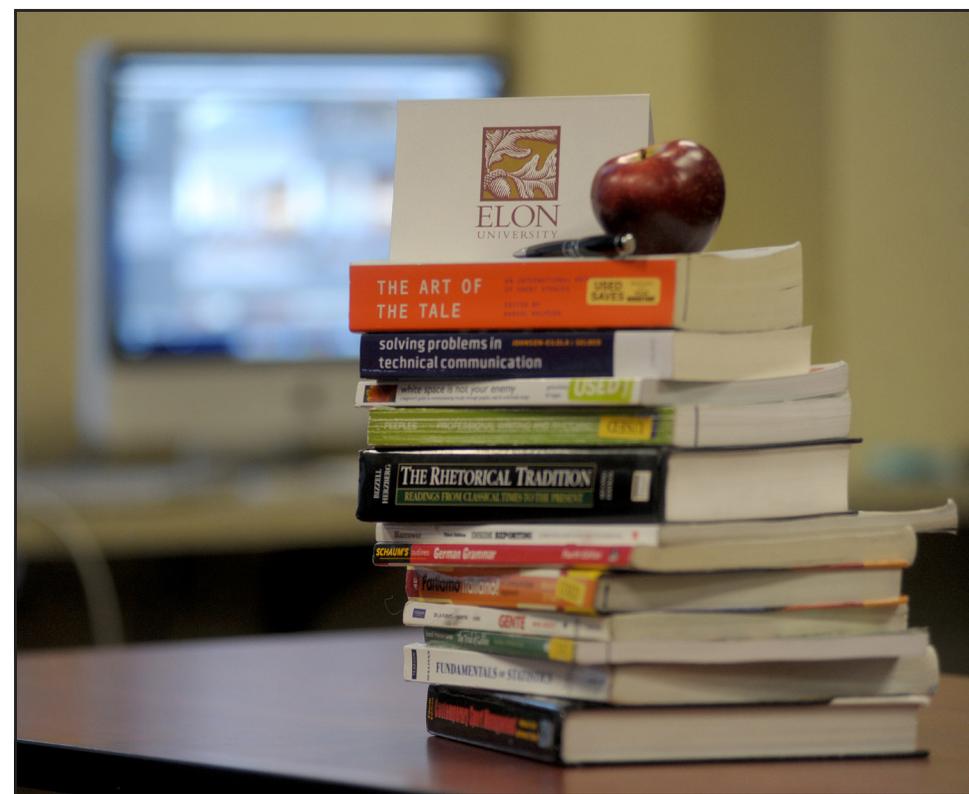


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AL DRAGO

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Vendor Policy Committee Members,

One of your charges from Elon's Board of Trustees is to "conduct an independent study to respond to community concerns raised about Chick-fil-A's presence on campus and its charitable contributions." I understand that you are collecting and considering input through emails that are sent to vendorpolicy@elon.edu. While gathering

input through email has many favorable qualities, I do not believe that email by itself is a sufficient method for gathering the thoughts of Elon constituents. I ask that the Vendor Policy Committee hold at least one public forum prior to submitting a summary report to the Board of Trustees.

An open and public forum reflects critical democratic practices that are necessary for gathering community input for the following reasons: (1) Deliberative decision making is aided

by focused conversation and communication; email statements are qualitatively different from two-way, in-person communication. (2) Effective qualities of individual or group stories are often lost in written communication. (3) Open and public forums are standard practice for gathering input on policy decisions that impact the community. (4) Private emails lack transparency and effectively conceal accountability to Elon's stated values. (5) Emails can be sent from anywhere in the world — perhaps favoring

distant input from people far removed from campus who have little at stake.

I look forward to a robust public forum where vendor policy committee members listen to the concerns and experiences of Elon community members.

Sincerely,

Troy A. Martin
Associate Director of Academic Support and Advising

Keystone Pipeline not worth its weight in oil

The payoffs are minimal and the risks are incalculable, at least for the United States. But for TransCanada, the Canadian company in charge of the Keystone Pipeline, the project has sizable value.



Ian Luther
Columnist

There's a lot of misinformation surrounding the Keystone Pipeline. In fact, the ongoing debate doesn't even concern the pipeline. The first phase of the pipeline has been operational since 2010, running more than 2,000 miles through two Canadian provinces and six U.S. states. The debate is actually about the Keystone XL, an appropriately named addition that would add 700 miles to the original pipeline.

On the surface, the project seems like a welcome source of work for Americans.

TransCanada hired The Perryman Group, a Texas-based financial analysis firm, to demonstrate the benefits of the Keystone XL. The study concluded construction of the pipeline would create more than 119,000 jobs and bring 1.1 million

barrels of oil to the United States daily.

This sounds promising, but the study was funded entirely by TransCanada. Cornell University researchers conducted their own study and found drastically different results.

TransCanada reported the project budget to be more than \$7 billion. In reality, the KXL budget is somewhere between \$3 billion and \$4 billion. This decreased budget means fewer jobs and less money injected into the U.S. economy. Even the steel pipes used to construct the pipeline would be built abroad, displacing American workers from another facet of the production process.

The U.S. State Department concluded the project would only create around 5,000 temporary jobs. This is hardly the surplus of American labor we're looking for.

But with gas hovering around \$4 a gallon, it makes sense that a pipeline running directly through the center of the country would decrease U.S. gas prices, right?

Wrong. The KXL isn't intended for U.S. consumption. It's intended to avoid the United States entirely, bisecting the country to reach the Gulf of Mexico and its foreign trade zones. TransCanada can process and sell the oil internationally and



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Thousands of protestors encircled the White House in 2011 to demonstrate against the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, which would add 700 miles to the pipeline that has already existed since 2010.

avoid U.S. taxes.

But most importantly, there's an environmental cost. The KXL runs directly over the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the largest aquifers in the world. An oil spill at any point along the pipeline would ravage the primary source of drinking water for more than 2.3 million Americans. The potential damage to our ecosystem makes the KXL financially imprudent and downright cata-

strophic.

So the question remains: What needs to be done? We need to shut it down.

According to Cornell's study, 2.7 million jobs have already been added from renewable energy and the potential for many more exists. Solar power, geothermal energy and windmills can provide these same jobs and energy and, at the very least, they won't kill us.

Sexual assault victims should not be silenced

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, 54 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to the police and 97 percent of rapists never spend a day in jail.



Michelle Alfini
Columnist

Landen Gambill, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, faces possible expulsion due to an Honor Code violation for "disruptive or intimidating behavior" toward her alleged rapist. She has spoken

to the press and filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Let that sink in. Gambill is accused of intimidating a man who allegedly raped her. She faces expulsion for refusing to let him get away with it.

On top of this, the UNC Chapel Hill Honor Court, the organization to which Gambill reported her case, claims she mishandled the situation by publicly criticizing the university. In a December edition of *The Daily Tar Heel*, Gambill claimed that the Honor Court "victim blamed" her.

To put Gambill's story in perspective, imagine your laptop is stolen. You decide to report it and talk to your RA who replies, "You should have locked your door." You contact campus security and they respond with invasive questions. What if you knew who stole your computer but couldn't prove it or no one would believe you? Would you

be ashamed? Would you be outraged? This is what sexual assault victims who choose to testify have to endure.

Some argue Gambill's issue is between her and her alleged rapist or her and the university and should be dealt with on a more personal level, but they are ignoring the fact that Gambill's experiences are not unique. By bringing this issue to national attention, Gambill is taking a stand in the hopes that she will not only change the way UNC Chapel Hill deals with sexual assault cases, but the way such issues are addressed at universities across the country.

If Gambill is expelled, what will this say to future victims of sexual assault? If women are afraid to report these issues, how can anything change? How will offenders face consequences? How will victims find peace?



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

UNC Chapel Hill sophomore Landen Gambill was charged with an Honor Code violation for speaking out about alleged abuse and sexual violence.

Air pollution in Beijing manifests far

Noah Manneville
Reporter

Air pollution in China, especially in the capital city of Beijing, has become an ever-increasing issue among residents and environmentalists both in China and abroad. Unfortunately, any hope that the issue will be resolved in the near future is merely a pipe dream.

Throughout January and February of 2013 Beijing's air quality has become an indicator of the dangerous levels of pollution plaguing China on a daily basis. Though physical indicators of economic progress, including power plants, oil refineries and automobiles, are becoming more familiar across the country, the weakly enforced environmental protection measures placed on Chinese companies have resulted in an array of new issues.

The world's universal measurement of air pollution known as the Air Quality Index (AQI) shows Beijing consistently reaching unprecedented levels. This forced the Environmental Protection Agency to create a new

"black" level on the AQI scale, which is described simply as "beyond index."

Issues like China's lagging fuel standards, increased industrial output from coal-using power plants and booming automobile sales are all contributors to the current air quality issue. This adds to a host of additional troubles, including contamination of rivers and reservoirs and the destruction of forests where China's already scarce wildlife has established a frail and dwindling last bastion.

The big question is how does the current government faction, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), plan to stop and reverse this unhealthy trend? Sadly, the answer looks grim. The economic benefits for China have time and time again outweighed the perceived environmental damages in the minds of government officials.

According to the Dow Jones Business News, ConocoPhillips, one of America's largest energy producers, recently signed a deal with the PetroChina Company to study unconventional shale natural gas in central China's Sichuan Basin. In exchange, PetroChina will

receive large stakes in two of ConocoPhillips' Australian gas discovery and export operations.

Meanwhile, a Chinese government study on soil pollution that began in 2006 and cost over one billion Yuan, roughly \$160,000,000 USD, was declared a state secret. Lilian Lin of the Wall Street Journal reported on the issue this past February. Chinese authorities have deemed that information on soil pollution is "not fit for public consumption," Lin said. This Chinese political jargon is often used to cover up information that would potentially harm the Chinese Communist Party's image if exposed.

This is the latest development regarding the state security issue in modern China. Corruption among state officials is another leading cause of concern regarding environmental pollution and mistrust in the government. Despite Chinese Communist Party Chief Xi Jinping's public request directing government officials to cut extravagant spending, outrage has arisen on China's mainland when an online request to post pictures of luxury cars with government license plates (referred to as "white-plated cars")

revealed government officials driving cars worth millions of Yuan.

Cars such as the Maserati Quattroporte, which is worth over two million Yuan or about \$320,000, were pictured far from their registered areas of jurisdiction. With such rampant displays of corruption, a public outcry should not be far behind.

In recent months the social and state-run media have become bolder, even to the point of openly slamming the CCP through online social media sites like Weibo and RenRen, the equivalents of Twitter and Facebook. However, many of these dissidents have been met with unabashed and extreme retaliation from party officials.

One such story comes from the Zhejiang province on China's southeastern coast. A 60-year-old farmer named Chen Yuqian challenged Chinese environmental officials to swim in the polluted rivers they were meant to keep clean. This was in protest of the pollution of a river near Chen's home, which he suspects has been contaminated by toxic waste from a nearby paper mill.

Tom Phillips of the Telegraph reported on the story and noted that instead of government action, Chen's daughter said Chen Yuqian was severely beaten by about 40 men for nearly five hours while they scolded Chen for his Internet usage. Phillips interviewed Chen Yuqian after the attack. "No one has really ever cared about our lives or our plight. If we can't work and live normally and drink water safely, then what is the point in us living at all?" Chen said.

Phillips also covered the issue of the aptly named "cancer villages" located throughout China. Reports of cancer caused by poisoned soil, air and water are a direct result of nearby factories and power plants using toxic and sometimes banned chemicals then improperly disposing of them. As these dangerous chemicals seep into the ground and permeate the air, clusters of villages and towns across China have been hit with extreme levels of cancer. It was only until early this year that the Chinese government officially admitted these cancer villages do in fact exist. Cancer is now China's number one killer, with one fourth of Chinese today dying from some form of cancer.

It has long been a CCP policy to silence dis-

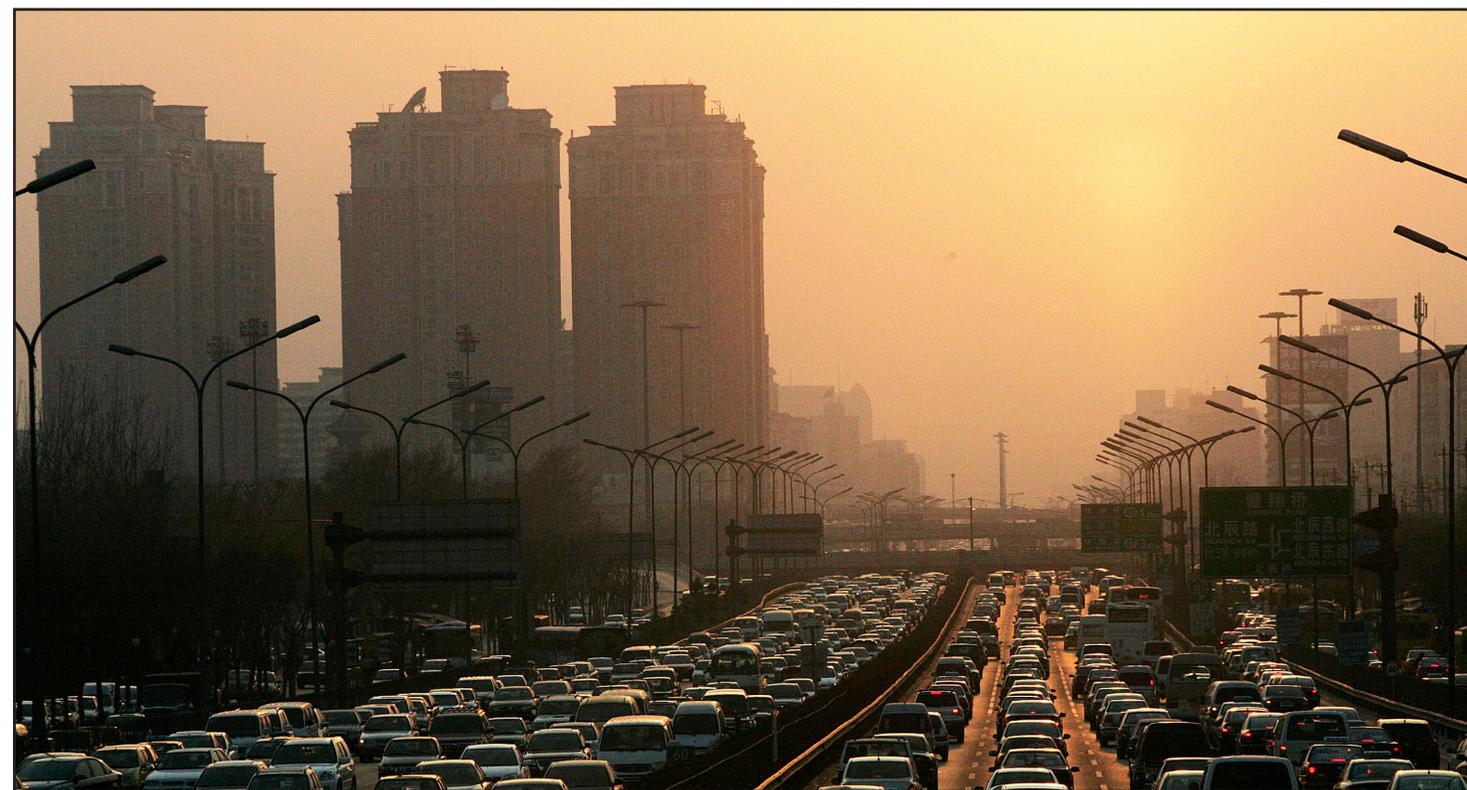


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Rush hour traffic heads west, fading into the smog at dusk on the North Third Ring Road in March 2007 in Beijing. The air pollution has only gotten worse since then.

deeper problem

sidents, especially environmentalists. Jo Ling Kent and Jaime Florcruz from CNN interviewed Chen Guangcheng, a blind environmental activist who was placed under house arrest in 2011 after his release from four years of imprisonment for leading protests against pollution in his community.

“My house is basically under surveillance 24 hours a day and we can’t get out of the house and the same thing happens to my wife,” Chen said. “Only my mother can go out to get something for us to eat and stay alive.”

Chen and his family fled to the United States in 2012, but his nephew was sentenced to over three years in prison in possible retaliation for Chen’s newfound fame and attention in America. Chen is one of the many political activists who have been shuttered and confined because of their dissidence.

The main problem in China’s environmental struggle is the unwillingness of the CCP to confront the obvious pollution problem. The common viewpoint of most officials is that obeying environmental standards will be detrimental to China’s growth, which has slowed significantly over the past decade. Many Chinese officials are closely linked to energy and manufacturing corporations that are seen as responsible for a majority of the pollution in China today and are resilient to any measures

that might hamper their earnings.

Erica Downs and Michal Meidan from China Security researched the linkage between Chinese officials and the oil industry. Su Shulin was named governor of the tropical and prosperous Fujian province in southeast China. As a result of his appointment, Su was forced to resign from his former position as President of Sinopec Group Company, China’s largest oil, gas and petroleum producer and exporter.

Su is not alone in his situation. Wei Liucheng, former Party Secretary and governor of Hainan Province, was also the general manager of China National Offshore Oil Corporation. The current Minister of Public Security, Guo Shengkun, is also the general manager of the Aluminum Corporation of China. It has become commonplace for CCP officials to hold simultaneous government and business positions, which creates a conflict of interest for many top-ranking politicians.

These factors have significantly contributed to Beijing’s worsening air pollution and are the reason why an obvious standstill exists within a visibly harmful issue. With no desire to regulate production, no means to combat corruption and no influence for the disenfranchised victims of pollution, it seems that the matter of poor air quality in China is just another one of the many problems here to stay. §



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

A billboard promoting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games is obscured by air pollution near Beijing.

Color-coding air quality

Amid health concerns over pollution, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing maintains an air quality monitor, which measures pollution and generates an EPA-developed index. The 6-level index is on a scale of 0 to 500, with the higher the value, the greater the level of pollution and health concern.

Air quality index

Index values	Health concern	Color code	Meaning
0-50	Good	Green	Air is satisfactory and poses little risk
51-100	Moderate	Yellow	Acceptable, may affect some people
101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Orange	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects
151-200	Unhealthy	Red	Everyone may experience health effects
201-300	Very unhealthy	Purple	Warnings of emergency conditions
301-500	Hazardous	Maroon	Everyone may experience serious effects

Source: Airnow.gov

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The Air Quality Index measures healthy air levels with a color-coded scale ranging from 0 to 500. Beijing completely broke the charts, surpassing the Hazardous level and exposing residents to dangerous effects.

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Religious studies professor achieves lifelong influence on students

Rebecca Iannucci
Editor-in-Chief

He decided he wanted to be the next Hemingway while sitting in a laundromat. He abandoned his pursuit of becoming a Baptist preacher when his faith in God was shattered. His first job after graduate school, with two master's degrees under his belt, was at a video rental store.

L.D. Russell has taken the scenic route through life, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Now in his 20th year as a lecturer in Elon University's Department of Religious Studies, Russell is a campus enigma. His long, silver hair is pulled into an impressively neat ponytail. He is not "Mr. Russell" to his students or colleagues, but simply "L.D." He enters his classroom with a wry, mischievous smile and a deep-seated desire to spark stimulating conversation.

But the road to Russell's fruitful career at Elon has been a bumpy one. It has become a story he is almost hesitant to tell, given its countless twists and turns. And if things had

gone as planned, Russell would currently be a preacher in a Baptist church.

Discovering religion

Russell's religious background was almost predetermined for him.

"Growing up, there were not a lot of choices in a small Southern town," he said. "At the end of the street we lived on, if we had turned left, we would have become Methodists. But we turned right and we became Baptists, so I grew up in a Baptist church."

The small town of which Russell speaks is Union, S.C., where he was raised. The son of a textile worker and a stay-at-home mom, Russell — Larry Dean Russell, a name he has since shortened — found himself surrounded by religion in a way that sometimes bored and confused him. He was unsure of what he wanted out of life. He became a self-described hippie during high school. What is often a turbulent time for adolescents was no different for Russell.

"Here I am, 16 years old, and I'm trying to figure out who I am and who I want to be," he said. "I'm experimenting with drugs and just

not sure about what I'm doing."

But during a weeklong beach trip with his church's youth group, Russell found peace of mind. He found himself almost involuntarily letting go of emotional baggage. During the final church service of the trip, Russell was called to the front to accept Jesus Christ as his savior, in front of God and all of his friends.

He tried to fight it.

"Sixteen years old, I did not want to do that," he said. "But this is the mystical part of it that I still don't fully understand: I couldn't not go down there. It was as if a force greater than myself pulled me to the front."

Unbeknownst to Russell, his steps toward the front of the church that night represented a path he would follow for the next several years. He was admittedly intrigued by the Christian way of life because it provided a life plan that was solid and unwavering.

When he reached his pastor at the front of the church, everything changed.

"As soon as I got to him, I just burst into tears," Russell said. "I grew up in a chaotic household, and there was a lot of turmoil both around me and inside of me. Just to let all of that go, it was such a liberating experience. I wept for a solid hour. And it changed me."

A shaken faith

For a number of years, Russell knew where his life was headed. He followed a straight and narrow path of Christian living. What is now a long ponytail was once a short, neat haircut — a decision Russell says he made for Jesus. Life was simple. His life plan was in motion.

Then, his faith was broken.

After Russell's college years, spent largely at Furman University, he attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., where he pursued becoming a preacher. At long last, he knew where his life was headed.

But not long into his studies, Russell encountered a setback in his devotion to God: His mother's father, Albert Wilson, died of a stroke. It was a crushing blow.

Soon thereafter, Russell lost his childhood pastor, the Rev. Hayne Rivers, a man who

practically helped raise Russell and assisted him in buying his first car. He died of cancer.

Though Russell tried his best to keep up with his studies at seminary, a third event made him question everything. A professor from whom he had learned at seminary — the man who first introduced him to the problem of evil — was killed in a hit-and-run accident.

And just like that, Russell's life plan was in pieces.

"I was going to be a preacher," he said. "That's what I wanted to do. What I felt I should do, really. And then of course, life happened. I would say that the original version of my faith was shattered. And there was a rebuilding process that went on. And so, when my childish faith in God fell apart, I just started exploring."

A flurry of activity occurred in Russell's life after he received his seminary degree and gave up his preacher dreams. He received a Master of Arts degree from Wake Forest University and attempted to complete a Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I began to realize, in that grueling process of graduate studies, that my desire was not to know everything about one particular thing so much as it was to know something about a lot of things," Russell said. "I wanted to go for breadth as much as, if not more than, depth. And it was a huge decision. I did not finish the Ph.D."

Instead, Russell went back to the drawing board. He took a job at a video store to pay the bills but knew it wasn't his calling. Deep down, he still dreamed of being a writer, a career decision he'd made after college while sitting in a laundromat reading a short story by Ernest Hemingway.

"I thought, 'This is what I want to do,'" he said. "I want to be able to write like this. To enable other people to see and feel what I see and feel, but to experience it in a different way."

But bringing the American Dream to fruition was no easy task. Prior to attending graduate school, Russell had a few short stories published but otherwise found himself struggling to break into the business.

The process was gratifying nonetheless.



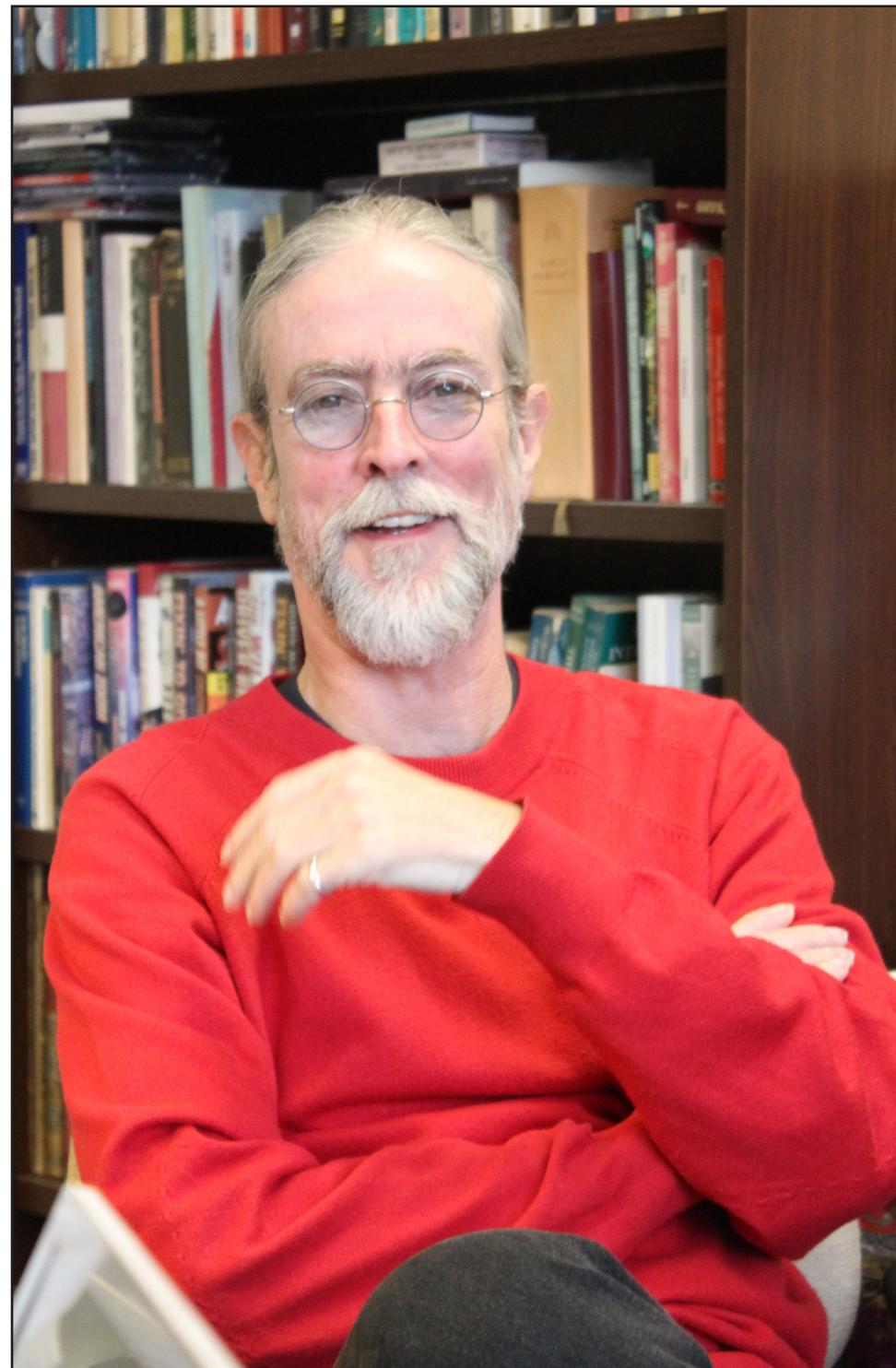
RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

L.D. Russell, a lecturer in Elon University's Department of Religious Studies, gives a lecture Feb. 28 in Lindner Hall called "Imagine: Music, Message and Meaning." The speech examined music as an instrument of spirituality.

“What I want to see is students...who really work for the common good...It’s a lifetime thing. It’s not just a job. It’s an adventure.”

- L.D. Russell

Lecturer in Elon University’s Department of Religious Studies



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

Russell has been a lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies for 20 years. He said his goal is to forge relationships with students that last into their postgraduate years, not just during their time at Elon.

“The writing itself became its own reward,” he said. “It was a way for me to process so much of my own experience and to explore the world.”

Russell’s passion for writing and learning eventually set him on a new path, one that ultimately led him to Elon’s doorstep.

Building a new career

Elon was by no means Russell’s first stop on the journey to teaching. He got his foot in the door as an administrative assistant for Duke University’s philosophy department. Serendipity brought him to Elon, when,

during his Ph.D. pursuit at UNC, he saw a flier in the student lounge that offered a teaching job in Elon’s Department of Religious Studies. It was only one course, and his first-ever class did not go well.

“That was a disaster,” he said. “I didn’t know what I was doing. They knew I didn’t know what I was doing. I think they looked at me as the substitute teacher for the entire semester. It was tough.”

But Elon kept Russell on board. He ended up teaching four classes a year for 10 years while maintaining his job at Duke. He wanted more from Elon, but it didn’t seem in the cards.

When it seemed time to give up hope, a full-time teaching position opened up at Elon. A twist of fate and support from colleagues landed Russell the new lecturer position in the Department of Religious Studies.

Toddie Peters, chair of the Department of Religious Studies, played a key role in getting Russell the job — a job he has now held for 20 years.

“That was done for a number of reasons,” Peters said. “He had been a dedicated teacher and committed to the department, and because he had such a good rapport with students. For the contribution that he could make to our teaching staff, some of us pursued that avenue and went to the dean and made that case to have him.”

The backing he received from his co-workers did not go unrecognized by Russell. To this day, he says he cannot express his gratitude to them for getting him the position.

“At the first faculty meeting of the year, the newbies are introduced,” he said. “My friend and mentor, Dr. Jeffrey Pugh, introduced me to everybody. I said something along the lines of, ‘I’m not the kind of guy who says this kind of thing, but dreams really do come true.’”

Molding students’ minds

A class with Russell has an unorthodox setup. His students are not students, but a tribe. Each lecture begins with a recitation of song lyrics, often from the rock ‘n’ roll genre Russell favors. He is laid-back. He lets the students do the talking.

But it wasn’t always that way.

“When I first started teaching, I basically read from my notes,” Russell said. “And back in the day, that was a much more common style than it is today. Elon is famous for not being that way.”

What changed? For Russell, it was the realization that students should be taught as human beings instead of empty minds that need to be filled.

“Everyone contributes. Everyone brings something to the table,” he said. “One of the things that I tell students is, ‘How can I help you?’ And not just while you’re in my classroom. Once a tribal member, always a tribal member.”

Senior Evan Bonney can attest to the effect of Russell’s teaching style. Bonney took Russell’s introductory religion course last fall and says Russell’s influence on him will undoubtedly be lifelong.

“He gave me a new perspective on religion, one which will grip me forever,” Bonney said. “Down the road, his character and teachings will be the easiest things to recall because they hit a part of your heart that sticks with you for the rest of your life.”

In the end, that’s what Russell says is his goal: to forge relationships with students that last well into their postgraduate years.

“What I want to see is students who go out of here into the world, not just to be selfish, money-making, stuff-collecting consumers, but who really work for the common good in whatever way they find fits them,” he said. “It’s a lifetime thing. It’s not just a job. It’s an adventure.” §

The Painter's Roost allows guests to paint, socialize in eclectic atmosphere

Megan Cummins
Senior Reporter

Anita O'Donnell spends her days in a quaint, light-filled space surrounded by uniquely refurbished furniture and a paint-splattered floor.

O'Donnell, owner of The Painter's Roost which was recently established on Huffman Mill Road, offers people of any age or skill level the opportunity to improve one's painting abilities.

Upon walking into the store, one is overcome by the hominess that characterizes the painting studio — the bright color palette of the interior and the studio's eclectic rooster decor immediately transports customers to an old country farmhouse.

For \$25 to \$45 per person, each customer is supplied with necessary materials such as brushes, a canvas, an easel and paint to complete their own masterpiece. Customers are also encouraged to bring their own beverages, which can include alcohol for those aged 21 and older.

Paint-your-own and create-your-own-art studios have become extremely popular in the last few years and have been popping up across the country. Pinot's Palette, another art studio where customers can paint while having a drink, currently has 21 locations throughout the United States.

"To those who may be nervous about applying paint to canvas, you don't have to have any artistic talent whatsoever," O'Donnell said. "We are all painting the same thing, but you can add your own personal touches to the painting."

During the classes offered, such as "City Skyline" and "Wall Flower," teachers show participants how to blend colors and apply brush strokes.

The Painter's Roost is located in the former Verizon Wireless store next to Panera Bread and currently has two classrooms, which, according to O'Donnell, allow two different classes to run at the same time.

"Every class is just amazing," she said. "And every piece of art, regardless of what it started out as, is different."

An Asheville native, O'Donnell was



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

The Painter's Roost provides customers with art supplies during each class so they can paint their own masterpieces under the supervision of an art teacher.

inspired to open The Painter's Roost after she was laid off from her job at a construction company three years ago. Having always had a knack for crafts, she decided to expand her beloved hobby into a career.

The Painter's Roost holds two-hour classes Tuesday through Sunday with morning and evening classes available on weekdays. All participants can take their work home at the end of the session.

The Painter's Roost

- **Location:** 422 Huffman Mill Rd., Suite 121, Burlington, N.C.
- **Hours:** Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Phone Number:** (336) 395-8782
- **Email:** ago@thepaintersroost.com



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

The Painter's Roost occupies the space where Verizon Wireless was formerly located next to Panera Bread.



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

Anita O'Donnell is the owner of The Painter's Roost. She opened the studio to turn her hobby into a career.

Review: Kontras Quartet performs at Elon University for the first time

Meghan Mahoney
Senior Reporter

The auditorium fell silent. Four musicians walked on stage – Dmitri Pogorelov, Jean Hatmaker, Ai Ishia and Francois Henkins – carrying violins, a viola and a cello. The group sat and raised their bows. With one unified breath the quartet began to play.

The Kontras Quartet performed Feb. 28 in Whitley Auditorium as part of The Mary Duke Biddle Chamber Recital Series.

The ensemble has toured together since 2009, but this was the group's first time at Elon. They are no stranger to North Carolina — the ensemble performs more than 70 times a year in the state.

They are a diverse group, each from different countries around the world, including the United States, Japan, Russia and South Africa.

The first piece the musicians performed was “String Quartet No. 3 in A Major, Op. 41” by Robert Schumann. Pogorelov said that Schumann called the piece “a beautiful lyrical, songlike movement.”

The four different movements of

Schumann's piece seemed to tell a story and allowed the audience to follow along with each pause.

Every breath the musicians took could be heard in the audience. Their energy was tangible as they all swayed with each stroke of the bow, creating notes of different pitches and qualities. The quartet's focus never wavered, not even when Pogorelov balanced his violin under his chin without his hands during a pause.

Kontras means “contrasts” in Henkins' native language, Afrikaans. Because their backgrounds vary, the cultural differences allow them to arrange unique interpretations of various songs. The contrast of the performance showed in each of the three songs. No matter the tempo or rhythm, the ensemble was able to explore different themes with a professional confidence.

Pogorelov introduced the second song by Dimitri Shostakovich as a composition the audience could discover and define for themselves. It consisted of five movements. Each section of the song had a different emotion and power behind it.

The music changed pace when the quartet started using their fingers to pluck

the instruments' strings to create a staccato sound.

The three performances were a mixture of fast and soft music, allowing the audience to sample many genres. Kontras kept the audience engaged through changing tempos and emotions.

With such actively changing music, the Kontras Quartet can reach out to people of all backgrounds via music. The ensemble's passion for the art helps generate enthusiasm for audience members of all ages.

For the last piece, Hatmaker, the cello player, said she referred to the performances as the “sh” concert because the pieces started quietly. All of the three composers' names also start with ‘sh.’

The final piece used a lot of repetition. Hatmaker said the third movement was a minuet – a slow, stately ballroom dance. The fourth and final movement was more lively.

“It's a delightfully charming piece,” Hatmaker said.

At the end, each musician left his or her instruments gracefully. They stood, bowed and left the stage with the same elegance they held throughout the entire performance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KONTRAS QUARTET

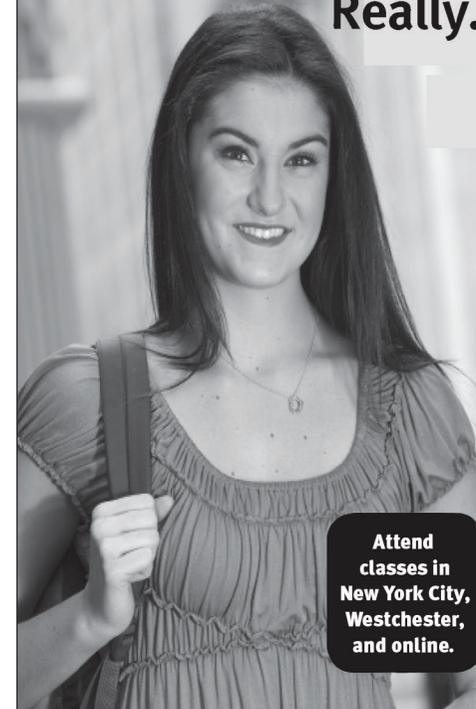
The Kontras Quartet played at Elon for the first time Feb. 28 in Whitley Auditorium. The group of two violinists, a cellist and a violist play dozens of concerts each season, many in North Carolina.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KONTRAS QUARTET

Francois Henkins came to the United States from South Africa to study music at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

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'Sonder' embraces individuality through experiment with collaboration

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

The word "sonder" is uncommon. It is defined as the realization that every person has the same amount of complexity and vibrancy as everybody else.

Sonder was the word chosen as the title of the Class of 2013's senior thesis dance, which premiered in the Black Box Theatre last weekend. Senior choreographer and dancer Jessica Rexroad said the dancers were inspired by the ways in which newer generations escape their daily lives.

"We as a class have been very inspired by ideas of escapism – how each generation has had their own way of coping with reality," Rexroad said. "For example, our generation has truncated communication and developed social media to an extent that we use it to escape the conventions of traditional relationships."

Traditionally, the senior thesis concert was made up of separate pieces, one choreographed by each dancer. But the Class of 2013 decided to take a different route for their concert.

"The Class of 2013 has revamped this process slightly by deciding to collaboratively produce one full-length, cohesive piece instead of 13 separate pieces to be



Dancers come together as one family in the Black Box Theatre as they perform during "Sonder," the 2013 senior thesis dance that allowed for student collaboration. RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

performed in a festival-style concert as the senior classes before us have done," Rexroad said. "This changed the development process significantly but it certainly

has been an adventure."

The show was split into three parts: "We were," "We are" and "We will." Between each shift, a dancer seamlessly wrote the name of the segment on a blackboard on the back wall. All the dancers were present on stage for the entire one-hour show, watching from various set pieces while their peers danced.

Rexroad said for a shared piece like this one, it was important to take into account each dancer and make sure everyone could contribute equally to the piece.

"One thing we really wanted to do since this is a collaborative piece was make sure everyone's voice as a choreographer was heard," Rexroad said. "So we were very intentional about splitting the show into sections with designated teams of choreographers, giving everyone an opportunity to exhibit their own unique style."

This sense of partnership with creative, individual flair was prevalent throughout the show – at times, the dancers moved in unison, but each let their individual style shine through. The show also played

with dynamic lighting, sound effects and props to create a piece that was not only thought-provoking and interesting, but also a successful showcase of the dancers in one of their last performances as undergraduates.

Associate dance professor Lauren Kearns, who co-taught the senior seminar with Karl Green, associate professor of the performing arts, said she is impressed with what her dancers accomplished this year.

"[Overseeing a project like this was] incredibly rewarding," Kearns said. "In fact, the creative and intellectual depth of this production is something that I have been wanting for our senior dance thesis productions for the last seven years, and this class reached that goal."

In the last moments of the performance, the dancers joined hands and stepped together to stage left. They have learned, trained and created this piece as a group. Just as they came in together, the dancers of the Class of 2013 stepped off the stage together.



Dancers pause in a moment of unison during their performance of "Sonder" in the Black Box Theatre. RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Review: William Barker embodies former president's passion

Jessica Petrocchi
Senior Reporter

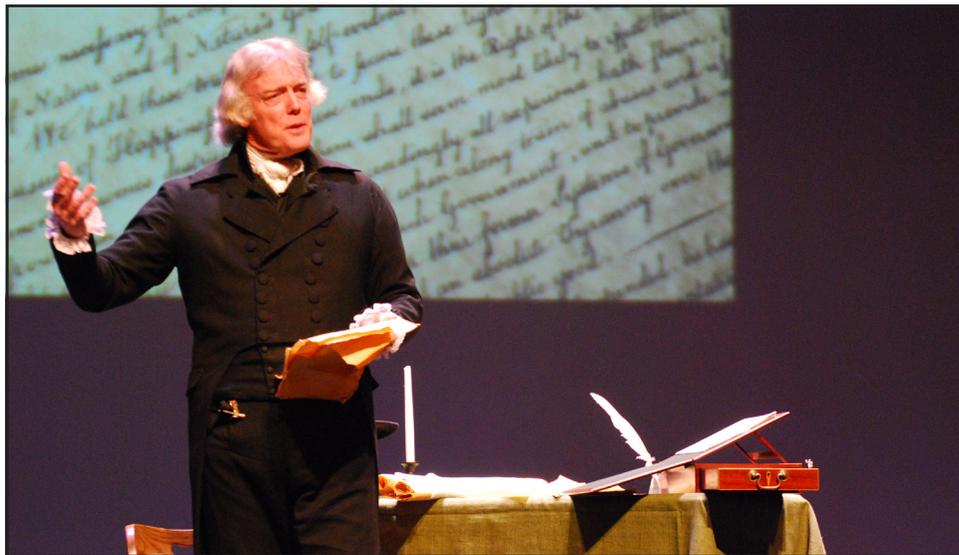
Last Sunday, William Barker, who portrays Thomas Jefferson in Williamsburg, Va., visited Elon University Sunday to discuss Jefferson's role in drafting the Declaration of Independence. Barker's strong connection to Jefferson and what he stands for was evident throughout his performance.

Barker's performance in Elon's McCrary Theatre attracted many citizens from the surrounding areas, Elon and high school students and members of Life at Elon, a community of senior citizens. Many people involved with Life at Elon, a community of senior citizens, were in attendance.

"We have seen Mr. Barker several times in Williamsburg," said Jerry Cooper, a Graham resident and audience member. "I've always been very impressed in his abilities."

Barker never broke character. From the moment he entered the theater to the end of his performance, he mimicked the proud way Jefferson would have carried himself and spoke with a certain tone of importance.

Barker was prepared to answer any questions from the audience, from Jefferson's conflicting feelings about owning slaves to his favorite type of wine. Throughout his performance, Barker encouraged audience participation and audience members happily obliged as



William Barker has been portraying Thomas Jefferson on stage for almost three decades.

they explored their own knowledge of America's history.

Jefferson, the third president of the United States and the writer of the nation's founding document, is still a relevant historical figure for society today.

Barker discussed where the ideas in the Declaration of Independence originated. He said none of the ideas were new. They were taken from Aristotle, John Locke, Cicero, Algernon Sydney and other influential political philosophers.

One point Barker was particularly interested in was Jefferson's stance on slavery.

"[Jefferson] is also commenting distinctly on the property of human bondage," Barker said in an online interview with history.org. "That is slaves — one's fellow man to be used as an element of property. And he is opening the doors very subtly toward abolition."

Barker's website is very comprehensive and displays his knowledge, interest and respect for Jefferson. Since Barker was a boy, his curiosity about Jefferson was strong, he said.

Now, Barker portrays one of the country's founding fathers in communities across the country. At 60 years old, he has been performing as Jefferson for more than 30 years. His experience is

evident in his comfort on stage.

Barker's first appearance as Jefferson

was at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1984. Nine years later, in the spring of 1993, he went to Williamsburg to play Jefferson in a movie.

Since then, he has performed for corporate and government offices. Barker has appeared as Jefferson on popular television networks and has received praise from various newspapers and community reports.

Barker visited classes and members of Life at Elon early in the week to discuss his interest in Jefferson.

While no person today has ever met the nation's former president, Barker offers a small window into which curious minds can peek.

"I wanted to see it because Thomas Jefferson is one of our forefathers," said junior Lauren Reiman. "I thought this was a fun and creative way to learn more about him."

William Barker's Favorite Historical Places

- Colonial Williamsburg
- Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello
- Jefferson's Retreat at Poplar Forest
- Independence Hall, where the Declaration was adopted

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Young runners help track and field tie for best SoCon finish ever

Andrew Wilson
Sports Editor

Winning back-to-back Southern Conference championships is no easy task. Just ask the Elon University men's soccer team. But in her first two indoor track and field seasons with the Elon women's track team, sophomore Louise PrevotEAU has done just that in the pentathlon at the SoCon Indoor Championships on the way to helping Elon to a fourth place overall finish, which ties its best-ever finish at the event.

After taking last year's championship by setting a school record with 3,566 points in the five events, PrevotEAU outdid herself a year later in the 2013 championships Feb. 23-24. By taking home first place in the high jump, long jump and 800-meter events of the pentathlon, PrevotEAU scored 3,711 points to set the new school record.

Taking a second straight pentathlon title wasn't just points for the Phoenix in the overall standings, but a release for PrevotEAU individually.

"I feel relieved to be honest," PrevotEAU said. "It was stressing me out knowing I had won last year as a freshman."

Taking home the pentathlon crown for the second straight year calmed her stress after the meet, but what helped the sophomore calm her nerves throughout the course of the five

events?

"Everyone was together and helping each other," she said. "I started my hurdles at 10 a.m., and a bunch of our team was there, and there were three seniors from last year's team cheering us on. I don't think a lot of teams have that happen. We were one of the loudest crowds there."

Though her main competition came from Samford University junior Ashley Cope, Elon head coach Mark Elliston knew it was going to be a special day for PrevotEAU after just the first event.

"We knew she was going to have some trouble with [Cope], but right from the start, Louise went out and did great on the hurdles," Elliston said. "She just kept it going after the hurdles."

PrevotEAU finished the opening event — the hurdles — in second place. That first event was what scared her most, as one misstep can knock a runner out of the competition before it's really even begun.

"Anything can happen in the hurdles," she said. "You can fall over a hurdle and get a zero and basically be out of the competition. That happens a lot. The first event is like a race and it's very stressful where the others come smoothly."

On day two of the competition, teammate and freshman Sydney Griffin took home a title of her own in the ever-troubling hurdles,

this time in the 60-meter hurdles, with a time of 8.65 seconds.

"I feel very blessed," Griffin said. "It definitely means a lot. I'm still just kind of really in shock because I don't think I realize this is as big of a deal as it really is."

With six runners on the all-freshman team, including Griffin for both the 60-meter hurdles and the 200-meter dash, in which she broke the school record but placed fourth overall, Elliston cited the difference it makes to have freshmen come in and succeed immediately like Elon's have.

"When a recruiting class comes in and just really shows everyone that they're for real and they want to come in and do their best, that's always a really good thing to have," he said. "The freshmen who are supposed to come in and just get a feel for stuff are actually coming in and taking charge of some things. It really pushes the veterans to pick up their level."

The runners now transition to the outdoor season, beginning March 8 and 9 at the Coastal Carolina Invitational in Conway, S.C., knowing they had a good finish during the indoor portion of the season. But there are things they can work on to improve for the outdoor season.

"We are a very talented group and a lot of our girls are not 100 percent healthy," Griffin said. "It's amazing to think there could be even more to come. We learned a few things

in this meet and during this indoor season that we can carry to the outdoor season."

Elliston called the fourth place finish indoors a "bittersweet" moment because Elon has had many fourth place finishes but has never been able to crack the top three. But he said he also knows the potential his team has to be even better during the outdoor portion of the season.

"We did well, we equaled our best finish, yet we can look back and see that we left a whole lot of points on the table," he said. "We can look back and see that if we had done better in this event or that event, we could have really moved up. We carry that into the outdoor season looking to add on with the outdoor events and move up from there."

First place finishes

Louise PrevotEAU

1st Place, Women's Indoor Pentathlon

60-Meter Hurdles: 8.99 seconds (2nd place)

High Jump: 1.65 meters (1st place)

Shot Put: 9.86 meters (5th place)

Long Jump: 5.57 meters (1st place)

800-Meter Run: 2:24.42 (1st place)

Sydney Griffin

1st Place, Women's 60-meter hurdles

8.65 seconds

UPCOMING EVENTS

BASKETBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD	MEN'S TENNIS	WOMEN'S TENNIS	GOLF
Men's & Women's SoCon Tournament March 9 – March 11 Asheville, N.C. Game 1: MBB – 6 p.m. vs. winner of Chattanooga vs. UNCG WBB – 6:45 p.m. vs. winner of Samford vs. Wofford	College of Charleston March 8 – March 10 Elon, N.C. UNCW Tues., March 12, 5 p.m. Wilmington, N.C.	UNCC Wed., March 6 DH, 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. Charlotte, N.C. Georgia Southern March 9 – March 10 Elon, N.C.	Coastal Carolina Invitational March 8 – March 9 Conway, S.C. Wake Forest Open March 15 – March 16 Winston-Salem, N.C.	Radford Wed., March 6, 2 p.m. Elon, N.C. University of South Carolina Upstate Sat., March 9, 1 p.m. Elon, N.C.	Samford Sat., March 9, 12 p.m. Elon, N.C. Chattanooga Sun., March 10, 1 p.m. Elon, N.C.	Women's JMU/Eagle Landing Invitational March 8 – March 10 Orange Park, Fla. Men's Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate March 11 – March 12 Aiken, S.C.

Playing away from Alumni Gym doesn't scare Elon women

Andrew Wilson
Sports Editor

The Elon University women's basketball team honored five seniors before their final game March 2 in the friendly confines of Alumni Gym. Though only three of them could physically play, the game marked the final time the group would play on Robertson Court.

Seeing Elon's home record of 12-2 compared to a 4-10 clip on the road could bring on the thought of falling short in the conference tournament this weekend. Breaking down the record away from Elon, though, will show there might not be as much to worry about as originally thought. Just ask head coach Charlotte Smith.

"4-10 is not really indicative of who we are on the road," Smith said. "We played some great teams on the road in the beginning of the season, which are some of our losses. We played well against those great teams."

Looking at the Southern Conference portion of the season, specifically the road record, the 10 losses get split in half, as the Phoenix only lost five road games in conference play against a solid road schedule.

The opponents of which Smith speaks were teams including North Carolina State University, the University of South Carolina and Campbell University.

"The N.C. State game, that's a game where we were in the game," she said. "It just got away in the last couple minutes."

In fact, the only road game in which the Phoenix was blown out was the season opening contest against the South Carolina Gamecocks. Though unranked when the two teams collided in early November, the Gamecocks have been a consistent Top 25 team this season and are currently ranked No. 14 in the country.

"We played a lot of great teams on the road and that's what has prepared us for conference play and the tournament," Smith said.

On Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, Elon played road games against Appalachian State University and Davidson College. The Phoenix lost by a combined 33 points in those two games. To close out the home portion of the schedule though, the two potential SoCon Tournament title contenders visited Alumni Gym. Neither came away with a positive result as the Phoenix beat the two by a combined 33 points.

"The first time we played [Appalachian State] and Davidson, especially in the Davidson game, we were in them until the last couple of minutes," said senior forward Kelsey Evans. "Now, it's March and teams start to step up their game. We had to follow suit. We've worked hard and we've put ourselves in a good position."

The revenge win against Davidson on senior day, March 2, gave the Phoenix conference victories against all nine SoCon opponents, including being the only slip-up for the first-place University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Lady Mocs Jan. 7.

Now, the Phoenix turns to the unfamiliar surroundings of Kimmel Arena in Asheville to close out the season with the conference tournament. Going in as the No. 3 seed, Elon takes on the the winner of the first



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Freshman Jessica Farmer (22) has played in 29 games during this season, averaging 3.9 points per game.

round game between No. 6 seed Samford University and the No. 11 seed, Wofford College, March 9.

Now in the postseason, the records don't matter anymore. Evans said she knows it's win or go home for every team involved, and she knows what's at stake in Asheville.

"In Asheville, it's nobody's home court," she said.

Before the 30-game schedule started in November, Evans cited the team's goal as a conference championship: something that hasn't happened yet for the Phoenix. Five

months later, the goal is in sight and very plausible. Three wins in March and it becomes a reality. But it's three wins away from Alumni Gym.

Smith said she knows the Phoenix has worked toward March all season. Having topped every team in the conference at least once on the way to an overall 16-12 record, 13-6 in the conference, Smith knows her team is ready for the tournament, even if it is in Asheville.

"We're going to show up and we'll play our game," she said.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Senior Kelsey Evans (2) is one of five seniors who led the Phoenix to a postseason berth in 2011.

Not done yet

Unprecedented regular season dream come true for men's basketball

Zachary Horner
Web Editor

Elon University Athletic Director Dave Blank couldn't help but smile. The gym renovated under his direction in 2010 was packed to the brim with Elon students and excited community members clad in white Feb. 27 as the men's basketball team took on Davidson College.

It was a picture of the success this year's team has achieved, and Blank's smile was warranted.

"It's the first time in basketball that I've seen the student section full literally at 6:15 and the game starts at 7:00," he said the next day. "Not only that, there were students standing trying to figure out, 'OK, where am I going to sit?' because the seats were gone. That can't do anything but give you a home-court advantage when your team runs out on the floor to that kind of atmosphere. That was a very different atmosphere, and I'm sure it had a big impact on our team."

Even though Elon lost to the Wildcats that

night, the Phoenix's season is arguably one of the program's most historical simply because of what it accomplished. But it's not over.

"We're moving up the mountain," said head coach Matt Matheny after the Phoenix's win against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro March 2. "North Division champs is moving up the mountain. Twenty-win season is moving up the mountain. Four years ago, we were 9-23. I still feel every one of the 23 losses. To go 20-10 is almost a flip of that, and that's kind of neat. It's moving up the mountain, but we're nowhere close to the top."

Seeking elevation

It started last year with a T-shirt that read "Elevate Elon." The goal? To make Elon a top-notch program.

"For us, Elevate Elon is a constant thing," said junior forward Ryley Beaumont at the beginning of the season. "You don't take plays off, you don't take practice off when you're tired. Elevate Elon is a constant reminder to yourself

that we need to elevate this program."

In 2011-2012, Elon had done a bit of elevating in Matheny's third season at the helm. It had defeated SEC opponent University of South Carolina at home and earned a win in the second round of the Southern Conference tournament over Georgia Southern University.

"We expect a lot more," sophomore guard Austin Hamilton said prior to the season. "Each and every year, we want to elevate to being an elite program in college basketball. It's definitely something that we stand by and that we're going to continue to do because we've got the tools to elevate."

Hamilton was right — the tools were all there. Four of five starters came back from last year's team, and Hamilton replaced graduated guard Drew Spradlin in the lineup.

While there had been some success in previous years, Matheny wanted more.

"We are excited about how far we've come, we're excited about the little successes that we've had, but we're far from content, and we're still chasing quite a bit of things," he said. "There

is an incredible amount of things that we can accomplish that we haven't accomplished in a long time."

Matheny also shared his mantra that carried throughout the entire season: "We want to improve on a daily basis and be good in March, regardless of why we play."

After a season-opening loss to Butler University Nov. 10, the Phoenix won six of its next eight games, including wins against South Carolina Nov. 21 and a tournament title in the EA Sports Maui Invitational Regional Games Nov. 17-18.

Elon hosted the Regional Games and earned two wins, defeating Colgate University 81-72 Nov. 17 and Florida Atlantic University in overtime by a score of 62-59 Nov. 18 to earn the championship.

Regional Games MVP and junior forward Lucas Troutman talked after the Florida Atlantic game about using the victory as motivation for the rest of the season, while junior guard Jack Isenbarger foreshadowed what would become a theme throughout the



year.

“One of my favorite parts is when the fans go crazy and the fans go nuts, when we hit a big shot or Lucas has a big dunk,” Isenbarger said. “The fan base is growing. We’re starting to get more people to come to games, more people in the community talking about Elon basketball. The fans that we had have been great to us. We’re thankful to them and we’re grateful that they’ve been so supportive of us.”

An early sign of the confidence the Phoenix had developed can be seen in what Hamilton said a couple days after the win against the Gamecocks.

“I think, as we’ve matured, we knew we were supposed to beat them,” he said. “Last year, it was a surprise beating an SEC team. We’ve got that confidence now knowing that we can beat teams like that. It was definitely a great win, but it wasn’t as hyped up [this year] as it was last year.”

Setting up for a streak

After fall semester final exams, the Phoenix dropped a 78-73 overtime loss Dec. 15 to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a 22-point defeat Dec. 20 at the hands of then-No. 1 Duke University. Elon put up a fair showing against the Blue Devils, but couldn’t overcome an eight-point halftime deficit.

A last-second victory against Columbia University Dec. 22 was followed by a dominating win against Div. III Manchester University New Year’s Eve. But the following two games proved to be a turning point.

First, Elon never led against Princeton University, as the Tigers earned a 74-64 win, a game in which the Phoenix got out-rebounded and trailed by as many as 16 points at times. Second, Appalachian State University manhandled Elon 80-70 Jan. 12.

Against the Mountaineers, Elon hit four three-pointers and allowed Appalachian State to go on a 15-3 run at the end of the first half to lose a 12-point lead and start the Southern Conference stretch of the season 0-1.

After that loss, something happened.

“We came out and lost to App State and we all said, ‘We’re never doing that again,’” Troutman said.

Initially, it didn’t look like that was going to happen. Early against Western Carolina University Jan. 14, Hamilton, who had started all but one game prior, went down with a knee injury. But Elon pulled out an 80-67 win thanks to Troutman, Isenbarger, junior guard Sebastian

Koch and junior forward Ryley Beaumont scoring in double-digits.

It was the beginning of something special. The Phoenix would go on to win the next six games, creating a seven-game winning streak, the longest since Elon won nine straight contests in the 2005-2006 season. The wins came in different forms: a 24-point blowout against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Jan. 24, two tight wins over The Citadel Jan. 26 and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on Jan. 31 and solid home wins over Furman University Jan. 17 and Wofford College Jan. 19.

The UNCG game in particular was a sign of how different this season was. The game was a back-and-forth affair, as the Spartans forced Elon into 25 turnovers and Isenbarger, the team’s second-leading scorer, was limited to 1-of-11 from the field. But that one make was a three-pointer to give Elon the lead for good with 1:31 left in the second half.

“In past years, this might have been a game we would have lost,” Troutman said afterwards. “This year, we’ve really had leadership step up. We’ve really had the team come together overall. It’s just been amazing having everybody flow so well together and being able to fight out through tough situations.”

During that streak, Troutman and Isenbarger hit personal milestones, as both reached 1,000 career points. Isenbarger hit the mark against Chattanooga, while Troutman scored the point Feb. 2 against Samford University, the same night his teammate was honored.

Unsurprisingly, Matheny was thrilled, but not just because of the scoring.

“That’s a sign of the growth of our players,” he said after the Samford game. “I have a vivid memory of recruiting them, our staff recruiting them, seeing them play in high school, seeing them as freshmen here, seeing them become sophomores and seeing them improve. Now, they’ve taken ownership of this team.”

Troutman perhaps had the most remarkable season for the Phoenix individually. Starting Nov. 13 against Div. III Bridgewater College, the junior forward scored in double digits in 21 straight games and earned a SoCon Player of the Week award the week of Feb. 5.

But for Matheny, it was more than just the numbers.

“He’s having a great year,” he said after Elon defeated Wofford College Jan. 19. “What he’s doing well is that he’s playing play after play after play. Doesn’t perform perfectly on every play, but after mistakes, he’s locked in, focused and ready, and after good plays he’s locked in,



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Junior forward Lucas Troutman (31) started 27 games this season for the Phoenix, averaging 15.1 points per game.

focused and ready.”

Dealing with adversity

The injury bug struck again for the Phoenix when the 6-foot-10-inch big man went down with an ankle injury just 18 seconds into Elon’s win Feb. 9 at Furman, two days after their winning streak was snapped at Wofford.

Meanwhile, Elon had hit more milestones, particularly for Matheny. The win over Furman was the Phoenix’s 16th win of the season, setting a single-season high during Matheny’s tenure. The Phoenix was 16-8 overall, 9-3 in conference and on a roll.

But Troutman struggled for most of the next few games. He missed the Feb. 14 win against Appalachian State. He started and scored 18 points in 28 minutes against Western Carolina two days later, but the injury held him to 13 minutes the next Thursday against Samford before being held out completely Feb. 23

against Chattanooga.

During that time, a different Phoenix player emerged. Starting against Furman, Beaumont averaged 18 points per game over five games to lead Elon to four straight wins and a narrow loss to Chattanooga Feb. 23.

“He really stepped up with Lucas going down the last two games,” Matheny said of Beaumont after the Appalachian State win. “He made tough plays, he made aggressive plays. I thought he made the right plays. He led us on the defensive end, he talked. He is exactly what you hope to coach in a junior and senior year. His leadership is unbelievable.”

That leadership from Beaumont had to show through in some close games. In that stretch of five games, Elon beat Furman by four, Appalachian State by three, Western Carolina in overtime, escaped Samford with a one-point victory and lost to Chattanooga by four.

In that time, Elon earned its second-ever SoCon North Division championship with its

win against Samford Feb. 21, as Beaumont scored 14 points and snagged 14 rebounds. The championship clinched the No. 2 seed for the conference tournament.

Constant throughout the streak and throughout all the success was an attitude of “we can get better.”

“January and February is a grind, that’s just the way it is,” Matheny said after the first Samford win. “I went into the locker room after the game, and our guys are smiling, they’re excited, they’re happy about the win. And then I said, ‘We can get better,’ and they didn’t look at me like I was crazy. They all were like, ‘You’re right, we can get better.’”

It’s not over yet, but it’s fun

Perhaps the most symbolic game of the season was the matchup of division champions Feb. 27.

South Division champion Davidson traveled to Alumni Gym that Wednesday in what could have been the most hyped game of the season. More than 1,800 fans filled the gym and watched the Phoenix fall 69-63 to the Wildcats in a tight matchup.

“It was a tough loss, but I think it shows us where we’re at,” Isenbarger said. “I think it shows us where we need to focus on ourselves and focus on self-improvement before the tournament because March is going to be here really soon, so we want to be playing our best basketball in March.”

There it is again: playing their best in March. Now, it’s March, and the conference tournament is this weekend.

The Phoenix closed out the regular season with a runaway 80-66 victory March 2 over UNCG, capping a 20-win regular season, the program’s first in 25 years.

“Twenty wins has been a milestone in college basketball for a long, long time,” Matheny said. “It’s not something we have talked much about. To get it is a good milestone for our program and it shows the growth of our program over the last four years.”

All of this has been witnessed by a legion of fans unlike anything in Matheny’s tenure. After the big number against Davidson, 1,711 people showed up to see Elon defeat the Spartans.

Before the Davidson game, with the fans going nuts, Beaumont looked at Matheny and said, “Can you believe this?”

“I just thought, ‘Wow, this is something we’ve only dreamed about,’” the head coach said.

Three years ago, Matheny coached through a 9-23 season when he wondered sometimes, he said, if students even knew his team was playing.

“You look at Wednesday night, and you look at Saturday,” he said, “that’s really in many ways a dream that we only dreamed about coming true.”

While Elon does go into the SoCon tournament this weekend with a great deal of momentum and a 20-win season on its record, players say there’s still some improvement to be made.

“We still made a lot of mistakes today, and we want to be at our best during the tournament, when it really matters,” Koch said after Saturday’s game. “We’ve still got next week to work on all the things we messed up today in

the game. If we get those things down, we have a bright future ahead of us.”

At the beginning of the season, Troutman talked about how his team didn’t have much fun the previous year. One of the team goals was to actually enjoy this season.

Have they so far?

“We’ve definitely had a successful season and that’s what makes it fun,” he said. “That’s a big part of growing as a team. We’ve really [had fun] this year. We’ve had some guys cut up and have fun on the court, enjoy practice, enjoy

games and be able to take the best out of what we have.”

The improvement is noticeable. Just look at the record, the stats, the players’ numbers, the division crown, the leadership, the maturity, the respect, the fans.

There’s just one thing left to do.

“Our dream is the NCAA Tournament, the Sweet 16, the cover of USA Today,” Matheny said. “It’s neat to have accomplished so far this year what we have accomplished, but it doesn’t change what we’re shooting for.” §

SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

Nov. 17-18

Elon hosts the EA Sports Maui Invitational Regional Games for the first time ever.

Nov. 21

Elon beats the University of South Carolina for the second straight year.

Jan. 14 – Feb. 2

The Phoenix has a seven game winning streak, beating Western Carolina, Furman, Wofford, Chattanooga, The Citadel, UNCG and Samford.

Jan. 24

Jack Isenbarger surpasses 1,000-point mark.

Feb. 2

Lucas Troutman surpasses the 1,000-point mark.

Feb. 9

The Phoenix beats Furman for its 16th win, the most ever under fourth year head coach Matt Matheny, securing its first overall winning record since the 2005-2006 season.

Feb. 14

Elon has its first overall winning conference record since the 2005-2006 season.

Feb. 21

By beating Samford, Elon clinches the SoCon North Division Championship.

March 2

The Phoenix has its first-ever 20-win season since the 1987-1988 season under head coach Robert “Bob” Burton.

March 9

The Phoenix will face the winner of the Chattanooga-UNCG game in the SoCon Tournament Quarterfinals.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Fourth-year head coach Matt Matheny led the Phoenix to its first 20-win season since the 1987-1988 season.

THE LAST WORD: Home is where the stress is

Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross' hypothesis about the five stages of grief has been taught in psychology classes around the world since its introduction in 1969. DABDA – the acronym for said grief – asserts that when a person is faced with death or another extreme fate, they will encounter all five stages.



Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

The housing selection process at Elon University can be added to that list. In my two short years at Elon, I have been through a whirlpool of emotions during housing registration that only Kubler-Ross could identify.

Denial sets in a week before registration

begins. I haven't even fully solved the mysteries that are my current roommates and suddenly Elon is putting pressure on me to decide if I want to live with them for another year.

Doesn't Elon understand that I am a fragile egg waiting to be broken apart by OnTrack freezing or slots at The Station at Mill Point filling up because I couldn't type in my roommates' Datatel numbers fast enough?

Unsurprisingly, I have to go through the housing process twice. My roommates and I were waitlisted at The Station, which means the whole process starts anew this week.

Anger strikes immediately after the waitlist confirmation email arrives in my inbox. Channeling Britney Spears, a rampage ensues in which all I want to do is attack the housing process with my freshly shaved bald head and an umbrella.

I realize I can't do this for a multitude of reasons: I love my hair too much, I don't

have an umbrella and the housing process is not a tangible object. My anger subsides and in its place, schemes begin to form.

Just because my roommates and I did not get Mill Point doesn't mean we are stuck with on-campus housing. Maybe now, with their first choice taken, I can finally convince them to see the light. I can convince them to move off campus.

Thoughts of how I can present my case rush through my brain. Different PowerPoint, Photoshop and Final Cut Pro projects are all considered as possibilities and deemed unworthy of such an important presentation.

Maybe I can make a deal to clean wherever we live next year for the first six months? Maybe I can have last choice of bedrooms?

Nope. No presentations will be made, no deals will be struck. Looking at my calendar makes me realize I am simply too busy and too lazy in my free time to convince three

stubborn guys to agree on an off-campus apartment.

Mirroring Charlie Brown and George-Michael Bluth, my shoulders slump, my pace slows and my feet drag on the ground, saddened by Mill Point's exclusivity. Regrets I have had since childhood resurface due to my lack of established residency.

This Debbie Downer attitude continues until I arrive back in my apartment at The Oaks, sit at my desk and take a very deep breath.

Sitting at my desk in Oaks D, with its working air conditioning and heat, washing machine, dishwasher and plethora of other appliances my roommates and I have brought, I realize it's not half bad.

It certainly beats my mold-infested freshman year dorm and a lot of residences my friends are living in at other schools. I can definitely live here for another year, even two more years.

But only if there are four bedrooms.

March Madness

- Phoenix
- Tournament
- Danieley
- Asheville
- SoCon
- Matheny
- Win
- Loss
- Isenbarger
- Evans
- Ford
- Koch
- Troutman
- Alumni Gym
- Smith
- Davidson
- Athletics
- Maroon
- Gold
- Halftime

I	G	N	Q	W	X	N	S	P	A	K	L	Y	D	C	O	T	N	I	W
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H	G	E	X	Y	A	V	H	A	L	Y	M	D	H	C	Y	U	Y	T	N
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Q	S	I	D	Q	S	X	F	O	R	D	O	R	E	G	P	L	C	E	I
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S	Z	X	T	Z	V	Z	D	O	K	Q	G	A	S	Y	X	T	W	O	S

Top Tweets

@Pete_Lembo

Congratulations to Coach Matheny and the men's basketball team for reaching 20 wins! They built the program the right way!

@katie_moulton

i will only participate in the elon harlem shake if dr. danieley starts it

@xoGossipSquirrel

So...who wants to be my little? XOXO, Gossip Squirrel

@mbhhhhh

Oh my god oh my god. I'm officially part of Elon University's #ClassOf2017 ahhhhh!!!

@monsieurdreams

I got an invite for an international fellows scholarship at Elon University. I think that means I got in.



TOP photos



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Junior outfielder Carleigh Nester hits a lead-off home run in a game against Manhattan College March 3.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Senior Jayme Mantos (top) and junior Jared Allen perform a scene from "Lucid Nightmares" Feb. 24.



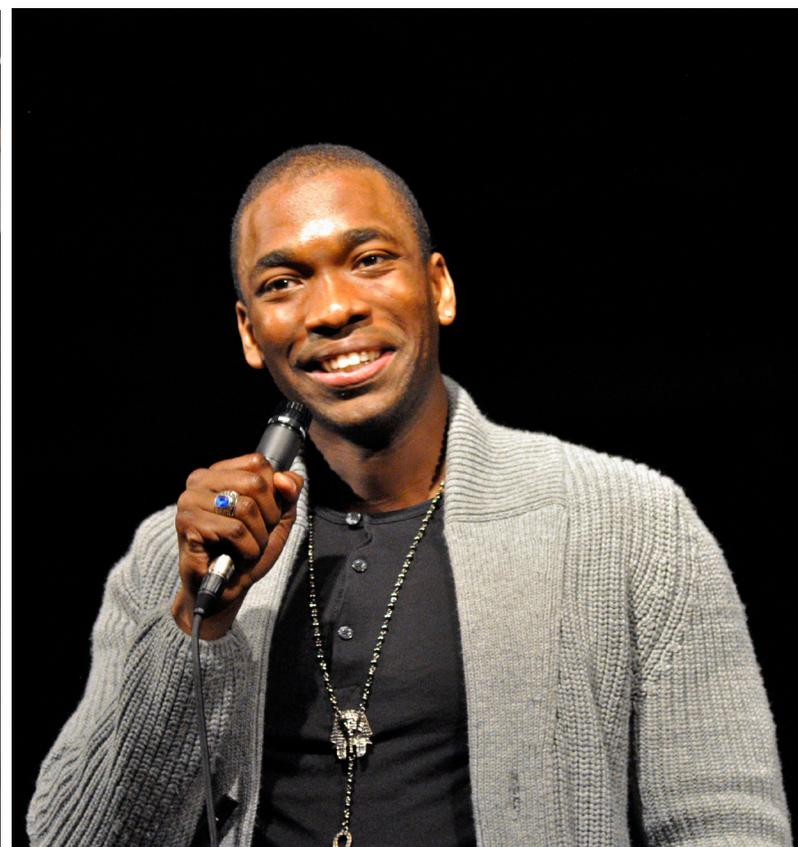
TIMOTHY DEWITT | Staff Photographer

Ken Hassell, associate professor of art, performs "The Artist is Present" for the department's faculty exhibition.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

(Left to right) Sophomores Chris Vigliotta, Alex Rossetti and Dillon Blake cheer for senior Ali Ford during a women's basketball game against Appalachian State Feb. 25 in Alumni Gym. The Phoenix beat the Mountaineers with a final score of 75-58.



MOLLY CAREY | Photographer

"Saturday Night Live" comedian Jay Pharoah performs for Elon students Feb. 26 in McKinnon Hall. His set included impressions of Chris Rock and Denzel Washington.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GARRET MANN

Elon University President Leo Lambert was one of many to sign a beach ball for Zeta Beta Tau — Elon's newest fraternity with Jewish ties — to raise awareness for the Children's Miracle Network and Duke Children's Hospital.

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