

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION 3



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THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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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FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
/	/	/	20 The Huffington Post Info Session 5 p.m. Moseley 103	21 Spring Organization Fair 7:30 p.m. McKinnon Hall	22 Intersect Diversity and Leadership Conference Feb. 22-23	23 Elon University Jazz Festival Concert 7:30 p.m. McCrary Theatre	
24 Get on the Black Church Bus Part IV 9:30 a.m. Boney Fountain	25 How to Find an Internship 6 p.m. Moseley 140	26 Digital Pedagogy and MOOCification 4 p.m. Belk Library 115	27 Innocence Project Panel Discussion 7 p.m. LaRose Digital Theatre	28 Family Feud Trivia Night 9:30 p.m. Irazu Coffee Shop	MARCH 1 "Where Winners Live" with Dave Porter 10:50 a.m. LaRose Digital Theatre	2 Arts & Sciences Job Search Boot Camp 9:30 a.m.	
3	4 "Switch" Screening 7 p.m. McKinnon Hall	5 How to find an Internship 4:30 p.m. Career Service Center	For more event coverage visit The Pendulum online at www.elonpendulum.com.				/

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To get involved, contact our Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Iannucci at riannucci@elon.edu or visit our office, located on the third floor of the Elon Town Center.

Constitutional amendments up for vote in SGA election

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Last semester was largely unprecedented for Elon University's Student Government Association. The Chick-fil-A controversy that erupted on campus prompted an ad hoc committee to draft several amendments to the organization's constitution, some of which will appear on SGA election ballots this week. The amendments will be finalized if a simple majority of the student body approves them.

In a 38-2 vote Feb. 7, the SGA Senate passed an amendment limiting the age of candidates for the executive president, vice president, secretary and treasurer positions. Many senators agreed eligible candidates should be rising juniors or seniors, for the executive branch is often tasked with making difficult, and sometimes controversial, decisions.

The Senate debated two proposed amendments at length. After much discussion, an

amendment affording the executive president veto power over both resolutions and bills did not pass. The constitution currently allows the executive president to veto bills, not resolutions, and some senators expressed concern that the ability to veto both types of legislation would afford the executive president too much power.

Greg Zitelli, junior class president, said it's important to understand the difference between a bill and a resolution. A bill is a call for action, while a resolution simply expresses a sentiment. "I think that resolution was intentionally left out of the constitution," Zitelli said. "A group of people can still have a say on something if an action is not taken."

Others argued that limiting the executive president's veto power creates a constitutional loophole, referring to the Chick-fil-A legislation the Senate examined last fall. It first presented and passed as a bill, but after Executive President Darien Flowers vetoed it, it resurfaced as a resolution and passed in a 30-8-2



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer
Senior Christine Mavraganis leads a debate between SGA Executive President candidates Welsford Bishopric (left) and David Patrick Brown. The results of all SGA elections will be released to students Feb. 20.

vote.

"The opportunity for a bill or resolution to be in the Senate is a way to bring an issue to light," said junior class treasurer Patrick Brown. "Having a means to bypass the executives is not the best way to do that."

After considerable debate, the amendment failed in a 17-22 vote.

An amendment requiring candidates for executive positions to have at least one year of SGA experience also failed in the Senate.

"I believe in age requirements, but I don't believe in saying, 'Well, you don't know the Senate process, so you can't run,'" said junior Ricky Rosati. "There's a learning curve no matter what."

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SGA Voters' Guide

For a complete list of candidates, the results and the voting process, visit elonpendulum.com.

Executive Officers

Executive President



David Patrick Brown II

I am a junior from Richmond, Va., double majoring in economics and political science. I have served for two years on SGA, most recently as Junior Class Treasurer. I can promise that I will listen to the student body, work to improve the SGA and serve with integrity.



Welsford Scott Bishopric

My time at Elon has truly been life-changing. It has allowed me to discover what I am passionate about and strive to maximize every opportunity. As Executive President, I will create a climate in which every student has the opportunity to pursue their passions and reach their full potential.

Executive Vice President



Joseph James Incorvia

I pledge upon my honor to be a just and unbiased voice in the Senate of the Student Government Association, while protecting and exhibiting the sentiment that each student on this campus deserves to and will be heard.



Ryan Budden

I hope to use my experience gained while serving on SGA and in other leadership positions on campus to increase the effectiveness of the organization as a whole.

Executive Treasurer



Richmond Jay Rosati

I vow to uphold the integrity of the treasury as well as be an advocate for all student groups, encourage all students to seek out the treasury, continue to spread awareness of the treasury and its functions, involve the Senate in the process of the treasury and represent Elon University with honor and sincerity.

Executive Secretary



Sarah Paille-Jansa

It is my hope that students at Elon enjoy their time here to the fullest and that each of my peers find a home in our community. As Executive Secretary, I would work my hardest to make Elon a home that's worth returning to.



Lauren Reiman

Having served on both At-Large Council and Organizational Council, I know and understand the importance of Student Government Association as a voice between the students and school officials. I will work to make sure key issues are addressed and all constituents feel their voice is heard on campus.



Alexandra Briggs

After serving as Class of 2014 President this year, I hope to serve the entire student body of Elon University next year as Executive Secretary. During the past three years on SGA I have learned the workings of the Senate, and I hope to use this knowledge to have a successful Homecoming.

Class of 2014

Senior Class President



Connor Thomas O'Donnell

As your Senior Class President, I will unite and inspire the senior class in our final year together through diligent work and commitment. I hope to leave a lasting legacy for the Class of 2014 and instill a sense of gratitude for all that Elon University has provided for us during the past few years.

Senior Class Vice President

Unfilled

Class of 2015

Junior Class President

Unfilled

Junior Class Vice President



Alexandria Christine Shahade

I believe I possess many qualities which are important for the Vice President of the Junior Class. As vice president of the service board of my high school, I planned and executed numerous programs in promotion of service. I worked closely with our officials of student government and facilitated a crucial partnership. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as Vice President of the Junior Class and greatly appreciate your support.

Class of 2016

Sophomore Class President



John Cameron Crowder

I vow to be the mouthpiece of the student body I represent. I will use all the resources at my disposal to execute my office faithfully and logically; I will always cast a vote in the best interest of all the students I represent.



Alex Bohannon

During my first term as class president I have executed my position with the utmost candor and respect and have to the best of my ability made sure that my fellow classmates have the best representation possible. I'd like to ask you once again to trust me with this responsibility and together we will keep moving forward. #ShineBright

Sophomore Class Vice President



Bobby Curtis King II

We as Elon students face legitimate issues and need strong leadership to answer them. As Vice President, I promise to amplify our concerns in government as I believe we can solve our problems together.



Matthew Crehan

My name is Matthew Crehan and I am running for the position of Vice President for the Class of 2016. I believe I am the best candidate for this position because of my experience as VP for my class for all four years of high school. I am very proactive and a hard worker. I promise to listen to all my classmates and their wants and concerns to have the best possible year together. Thank you for your consideration.



Ruthie Robinson

After having served as the Vice President for the Class of 2016 this past semester, I possess the knowledge and passion to continue to reach out to my classmates in order to make informed decisions that reflect the views of my peers.

Executive positions require 50 percent of the vote plus one.

A run-off election will be held, as necessary, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the results planned for 6 p.m.

Elon's Board of Trustees approves tuition increases

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Elon University's Board of Trustees approved a 3.9 percent tuition increase for the upcoming academic year, as well as increases in room and board, Student Government Association and health fees. Next year, tuition will cost \$29,750, and Elon's total cost of attendance will equal approximately \$40,000.

Elon's cost of attendance has risen steadily since 1989 to support the growth of the institution. The latest budget plan will generate revenue to advance the Elon Commitment, a strategic plan to promote academic excellence and expand residential areas on campus. The increases will fund 13 new full-time faculty positions and 21 new staff positions, as well as promotions and salary upgrades for current faculty and staff members.

"As we grow as an institution, we need to

keep our small class size and maintain that personal attention," said Gerald Whittington, vice president of business, finance and technology. "We're building a world class faculty and staff, and something like a pay increase is always a driver."

Although the increases are relatively modest, some students may feel a financial squeeze next year. Junior Dylan Cooper acknowledged the state of the economy has forced many families to tighten their belts.

"The increases will probably affect some students adversely," he said. "But it won't be that bad for me, because I'll be a senior."

The increases may also offset the impact of a potential tax code reform in North Carolina. During the 2013 legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly will debate how to revive the state's floundering economy by building a more business-friendly tax structure.

The State Business Tax Climate Index recently listed North Carolina as one of the worst business tax climates in the country, and Republican lawmakers are considering eliminating the state's corporate income tax to coax businesses into the state. They may abolish personal income taxes, too, in exchange for higher sales taxes.

If the state eliminates personal and corporate income taxes, it will likely repeal the sales and property tax exemptions currently afforded to many nonprofit institutions, including Elon. Such a repeal would cost the university \$3.5 million annually.

"The single largest thing driving the increases are the proposals in the North Carolina legislature," Whittington said.

It will likely affect other institutions, as well. Denny Bolton, vice president of business affairs at High Point University, said High Point's Board of Trustees will discuss similar

tuition increases next month.

"College and universities are all facing the same economic pressures," he said. "We are considering tuition increases for the same reasons."

Wake Forest University recently approved a 3.5 percent tuition increase for the 2013-2014 academic year, raising the cost from \$42,700 to \$44,200. The university's total cost of attendance will equal \$60,242, though the university did not specify its reasoning.

Elon's cost of attendance will break the \$40,000 mark next year, but its price tag remains relatively low for private schools. Bryan Youngmans, who transferred to Elon from the University of Massachusetts, said it's all about perspective.

"The increases will make my student loans higher," he said. "But after the increases, Elon is still less than UMass and most other schools."

Pope's resignation respected by Elon students, faculty

Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

Pope Benedict XVI became the first pope in nearly 600 years to resign from the papacy earlier this month, citing his advanced age as the catalyst for his decision. He will officially resign at 8 p.m. Feb. 28, but there is no set date for his successor to be announced.

When the Vatican announced Benedict's upcoming retirement Feb. 11, it gave no indication he was suffering from any health problems. However, on Feb. 13, it revealed Benedict had hit his head on a trip to Mexico, but denied the injury played a role in his resignation.

Benedict, 85, is the spiritual leader of 1.2 billion Roman Catholics worldwide. His resignation might trigger change within an institution known for ceremony and tradition.

Benedict began his papacy in 2005 after the nearly 30-year reign of Pope John Paul II. Of the 265 popes that reigned before him, Benedict is only the sixth to retire.

Many members of the Elon University community were surprised by the announcement.

"I think it is admirable that Pope Benedict XVI will resign to enter retirement," said

Jan Fuller, Elon University chaplain. "I see this as a gift to the church, to offer the role to a younger and more energetic leader."

The Rev. Gerry Waterman of the Catholic Campus Ministry said he heard a rumor the new pope could be in place by Easter.

"As with all rumors, there's only a thread of truth to that," he said. "Depending on the deliberations of the cardinals in the conclave, it could go much longer."

Sophomore Tim Gillman, who attended Catholic school prior to Elon, found Benedict's decision admirable.

"I even find it noble in some sense," Gillman said. "I think it takes a lot of courage and humility to acknowledge you are no longer able to serve."

Since Benedict's time as a cardinal, he has espoused a rigid conservative policy on social issues such as abortion, birth control and marriage.

While Gillman said he applauds Benedict's decision to retire, his opinion on Benedict's stances was not as positive.

"I actually had a few problems with Benedict's rigidity as a pope," Gillman said. "I think he had a lot of opportunities to promote and stand for social justice but got hampered with less important issues such as

birth control."

During his reign, Benedict appointed 67 of the 117 current cardinals who may succeed him.

"I would be hard-pressed to predict what policies or reforms our Holy Father's successor will enact," Waterman said. "But I will venture a guess that Benedict XVI's traditions and practices will be honored and hopefully further developed by his successor."

Benedict had suggested he would be open to retirement if his health did decline, but his announcement still came as a surprise.



Pope Benedict XVI is the first pope in nearly 600 years to resign from the papacy and the sixth ever to retire.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Ross Wade leaving Elon to become career adviser at Duke

Ethan Smith
News Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, Ross Wade is leaving the building.

Wade, the assistant director of career services for Elon University's School of Communications, announced he will be leaving Elon March 1 to begin a new job at Duke University as assistant director of career services for the masters of engineering program.

"This is a great opportunity to learn a lot of new skills," Wade said. "And I live in Durham and the office is a 10-minute walk from my home, so this job came with both a lot of professional and personal advantages."

Wade received his master's degree in counseling from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro before accepting his current position at Elon. He said he will miss working with the students the most.

"The students have been the best part of the job for me," Wade said. "And it was a pleasure to watch them go from being students to becoming alumni and maintaining contact with them in their professional careers."

Frank Garcia, a junior at Elon, first met Wade through a job opportunity.

"I met him through the Elon Academy," Garcia said. "He was a leader on one of our retreats that helped prepare us for college. He gave a recommendation to my current employers and has always been a helpful and upbeat guy."

Wade came to Elon in June 2008 and was the first career adviser for the School of Communications.

"I've been able to flourish in this position because I've been allowed to try a lot of different things to see what works and what doesn't," Wade said. "I was supported by the faculty right away, and I'm so thankful to have been able to have the time I've had at Elon."

In Wade's new position at Duke, he's aiming to take advantage of being a self-proclaimed lifetime learner.

"I've maximized this experience and I've gotten everything I can from it," Wade said. "The position I'll be taking at Duke will allow me to continue learning everything I can while continuing to help students, and I suspect I might be there for about 3 to 5 years like I was here."

Wade said he feels like he's gained more knowledge at Elon than he would have if he started his career at another school.

"Elon is a very close community," Wade said. "And that leads to a greater sense of responsibility. Everything I've learned I've learned from students."

Garcia said he feels Wade has a bright future ahead of him.

"I'm sad to hear he is leaving," Garcia said. "But I have no doubt he is off to do bigger and better things."



FILE PHOTO BY HEATHER CASSANO
Ross Wade will leave Elon to fulfill a new position at Duke University. Wade has been with Elon since 2008.

According to Wade, he has greatly enjoyed each moment spent at Elon and can't recall many low points. He's passionate about what he does, and he said he will miss the students and faculty he's gotten to know while he's been here.

"I'd like to be remembered as someone that was good at what they did because they love what they do," Wade said.

8 new members added to School of Communications advisory board

Cleo Dan
Senior Reporter

Elon University's School of Communications National Advisory Board recently welcomed eight additional members. The newest contributors will continue to support the board's goal of developing the communications program and assisting faculty within the department.

The advisory board's new members come from a range of backgrounds, from corporate communications to careers within the government. The board consists of 33 individuals.

"The advisory board is a group of professionals who we ask to meet with us twice a year and we talk about a variety of industry trends," said Jessica Gisclair, chair of the School of Communications at Elon.

The new members — Adele Ambrose, Roger Bolton, Julie Carey, Rich Cervini, Tim Franklin, Claudia Jepsen, Eric Kraus and Michael Tackett — possess diverse skill sets and perspectives to enhance the exchange of ideas and better contribute to

the School of Communications through dialogue. According to board members, the cross section of viewpoints is beneficial in cultivating an environment where ideas can be generated to support Elon.

"All of our new communications advisory board members are current Elon parents, so they have a real commitment to seeing Elon and the School of Communications become even better and better," said Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications. "The faculty benefits from the professional insights of board members, and board members create networks and contacts for current students."

According to board member Anders Gyllenhaal, the advisory board plays an important role in providing guidance to the School of Communications in the ever-changing, fast-paced media industry. Gyllenhaal serves as vice president of news for the McClatchy Company.

"The board is a vehicle for helping the school know more about what is happening in the professions and for understanding the directions of the

industry," Gyllenhaal said.

Julie Carey, a newly appointed member to the board, serves as the NBC4 northern Virginia bureau chief, where she covers news stories developing in northern Virginia. According to Carey, the board member position presents her with the opportunity to indirectly participate in training and shaping future journalists.

"I am incredibly honored to be chosen for the board," Carey said. "I feel strongly about creating a good pipeline for young journalists to get experience. That's what's exciting to me about it — being able to work with future journalists, just making sure that students are well prepared for the challenges they face these days being multimedia journalists."

As spring semester at Elon unfolds, students will be interacting heavily with career services and mentors to receive internship guidance for the upcoming summer.

"If we do a good job, then the school does a good job and the students get the benefits of that," Gyllenhaal said. "Not all communications schools have this kind of thing."

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Campus Pride advocate reopens Chick-fil-A discussion

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

As Elon University debates whether Chick-fil-A should remain on campus, Shane Windmeyer, the executive director of Campus Pride, an LGBTQ advocacy group in Charlotte, recently developed a friendship with Chick-fil-A President and COO Dan Cathy.

Chick-fil-A's past donations to several anti-gay organizations, including Exodus International and Focus on the Family, have angered many members of the LGBTQ community. Last semester, Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, argued Chick-fil-A's presence on campus does not align with the university's non-discrimination policy and asked its administration to consider partnering with a different vendor.

Windmeyer published an op-ed piece detailing his "coming out" as Cathy's friend in the Huffington Post last month. The announcement followed the September 2012 suspension of Campus Pride's

"5 Simple Facts About Chick-fil-A" campaign, which sought to raise public awareness about the supposedly anti-gay groups to which Chick-fil-A was donating at the time.

The campaign will remain suspended while he and Cathy discuss their respective perceptions of the LGBTQ community. Windmeyer rebuffed the idea that he and Campus Pride support the values of Chick-fil-A.

"Everyone seems to think that it's for supporting Dan Cathy or endorsing Chick-fil-A," he said. "The article acknowledges that two sides have come together and sat down and developed common ground."

Senior Lauren Clapp, an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum, cited several incidents of homophobic speech and intimidating activity reported this year.

"When it's an issue of student well-being and safety, I think that it becomes a responsibility of the university," she said. "I think that Chick-fil-A became a symbol on campus of anti-LGBTQ feelings."

Study Committee may consider Chick-fil-A replacements

Lauryl Fischer
Senior Reporter

ARAMARK, Elon University's dining service provider, released a list of vendors that may potentially replace Chick-fil-A if the Vendor Policy Study Committee decides to retire Chick-fil-A later this year.

The Vendor Policy Study Committee was created in October to examine Elon's partnership with Chick-fil-A, a controversial relationship that divided the student body last fall. Led by Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance, some students argued Chick-fil-A's donations to anti-gay organizations do not align with Elon's nondiscrimination policy, while others insisted the vendor does not actively discriminate against anyone.

The list consists of a variety of restaurants that have contracts with ARAMARK,, from KFC to Chipotle. The university is not officially considering a Chick-fil-A replacement yet, and not all restaurants on the list are viable options.

"Some might not fit well with our student

demographic, might not work well with other food choices already on campus, et cetera," said Vickie Somers, director of auxiliary services.

Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life, received the list in early October when the Chick-fil-A controversy surfaced on campus. She gave it to Kirstin Ringelberg, LGBTQ coordinator and art history professor, when Spectrum drafted its legislation to remove Chick-fil-A and presented it to the Student Government Association.

Senior Lauren Clapp, an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum, said she believes releasing the list might impact students' opinions on the Chick-fil-A debate.

"I think that if students were made aware of all of these other potential vendors that could go into the new dining hall, they wouldn't still be so adamantly in favor of putting Chick-fil-A there," Clapp said. "The way I see it, we could either keep Chick-fil-A, which will continue to be a controversial — and for many, a hurtful — presence on campus, or we could pick another, equally delicious, probably much



Chick-fil-A has been a controversial campus vendor for the last semester, though it has not yet been replaced. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Windmeyer said the campus safety issue is a reflection of campus values and culture. Elon has expressed a commitment to diversity, he said, which influences how the issue is perceived in the community.

"I think that if Elon is going to go in the direction it says it's going in terms of valuing diversity, then maybe this is an unpopular decision, but it's a way to demonstrate that they stand by what they say,"

Windmeyer said.

Windmeyer said while he has formed a personal relationship with Cathy, LGBTQ issues deeply divide the two.

"Because we have worked so closely on this controversy doesn't mean we agree on everything," he said. "It does mean that when there's an issue or a problem, Dan knows there is someone he can call to tell him exactly what it means to be LGBTQ."

we have to take that into account, too."

Potential Vendors:

- Banna Strow's
- Burger King
- Burger Studio
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Denny's Express
- Evos
- Einstein Bro's Bagels
- IHOP Express
- JUMP Asian Express
- KFC Express
- Moe's Southwest Grill
- Mooyah Burgers & Fries
- Panda Express
- Papa John's Pizza
- Fusion
- Pizza Hut Express
- Pollo Tropical
- Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
- Red Mango
- Rising Roll Gourmet
- Salad Creations
- Taco Bell Express
- Wing Stop Express

Belk Library clarifies InterLibrary Loan policy

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

The InterLibrary Loan (ILL) program at Belk Library recently announced it will not obtain textbooks from other libraries. The announcement may seem like a new policy for ILL, but the service has never intentionally borrowed textbooks for Elon University students. Some textbooks have slipped through, though.

“In the past, if a textbook could be borrowed through interlibrary loans, it would be sometimes, but they’re rarely available, which is part of the motivation for changing it,” said Joan Ruelle, university librarian.

Ruelle began working at Elon last summer, and she soon felt the need to clarify the ILL program’s stance on textbooks.

“It wasn’t clarified in the policy, so we wanted to make sure that we were consistent in our message to students about what we can and

can’t do and why that is,” Ruelle said.

She said it’s not feasible to borrow textbooks through the library. Students need textbooks for an entire semester, while the loaning libraries, which set the loan periods, typically want the books back in a month.

It also takes a long time to obtain textbooks because few libraries buy textbooks and even fewer loan them out, she said. University libraries like those at Duke University and the University of Georgia have the same policy on using ILL to request textbooks as Elon.

The ILL program runs on what Ruelle describes as an “honor system.” She said she fears students might not return a textbook because they need it for a class.

“Part of the enforcement of this honor system is being considered a ‘bad borrower,’” Ruelle said. “If Elon’s people borrow something and don’t return it in a timely fashion, an institution can decide, ‘We’re not going to loan to Elon anymore.’”

While the library does not buy textbooks, other required books students might use in a

class are carried and loaned out at Belk.

“Sometimes classes use anthologies and those fill the collection, but they’re not that sort of textbook with questions at the end of each chapter,” said Patrick Rudd, coordinator of access services.

Textbooks are also updated frequently, making them difficult to keep in a library catalog.

“We’re trying to build a legacy collection, so it’s not the best stewardship of our resources to be buying 12th editions and 13th editions and 14th editions,” Ruelle said.

While students cannot find the latest edition of a physical chemistry textbook at the library, some lucky students may be able to find the next best thing to supplement their learning.

“Occasionally we will get a professor donating an old accounting text that will end up in the collection, but that’s something that’s so basic, because accounting principles don’t change that radically,” Rudd said. “So students may, on the shelves, find something that looks like a textbook.”



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

The InterLibrary Loan program at Belk Library will no longer acquire textbooks from other university libraries.

‘The Village Project’ opens new Burlington facility for student use

Corinne James
Senior Reporter

The Village Project and The Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement officially expanded into downtown Burlington following the renovation of 217 E. Davis St., a building Elon University purchased in September 2012.

Elon purchased and renovated the building, which used to house Alamance and Alamance Women magazines, to provide extra space for both programs. David Cooper, chair of the Village Project committee, will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception sometime this month.

Jean Rattigan-Rohr, an associate professor of education, founded The Village Project in 2007. For six weeks during the second half of each semester, about 50 Elon education majors meet with local children and their parents to provide tutoring.

Rohr recently received the Oak Foundation Grant, a \$375,150 award from the Oak

Foundation, to expand her project.

“Parts of the grant will go toward Village Project enhancement in Elon, but also toward new national and international sites,” Rohr said.

The building provides an area for Rohr to meet with parents of Burlington students, but reading and science tutoring will take place in the May Memorial Library and the First Presbyterian Church, respectively. Both are located in downtown Burlington.

Renovations to the building began immediately after the sale was finalized. According to Executive Vice President Gerry Francis, the building originally held a reception area and four offices. Two offices were combined to form a meeting room, while the other two offices were left intact. The interior was recarpeted and repainted, as well.

“The renovations were quick and pretty minor,” Francis said. “It’s a small facility, only about 14 feet wide and 120 feet long.”

The meeting room seats 16 people, and Rohr occupies one of the offices. Kernodle

Center volunteers work from the other office.

According to Rohr, the Village Project is currently operating out of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North

Carolina A&T University, as well.

She is negotiating to add one national and one international Village Project site to open in the future.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Renovations to a building in downtown Burlington will allow for enhancement of the Village Project this year.

Bill legalizing medical marijuana surfaces in NC General Assembly

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

It's a form of treatment that people have been using for centuries, and a bill was recently filed to legalize its use as medical treatment in North Carolina.

That remedy is marijuana.

Earlier this month, N.C. Rep. Kelly Alexander, D-Mecklenburg, presented a bill that would protect "qualified patients" from prosecution if they were in possession of prescribed medicinal marijuana. Federal law prohibits the use of marijuana, but states are not required to enforce it.

If the bill passes, students at North Carolina colleges, including Elon, may still face consequences if found in possession of medical marijuana.

"Based on the information I have received from universities in states that have legalized marijuana, universities are still required to comply with federal guidelines," said Whitney Gregory, director of student conduct at Elon. "This means any possession or use of substances considered illegal under federal law would be prohibited on campus."

Medical marijuana is currently illegal in North Carolina, but the bill argues legalization

might promote the welfare of citizens with cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS and other diagnoses.

"Modern medical research has discovered beneficial uses for cannabis in treating or alleviating pain, nausea and other symptoms associated with certain debilitating medical conditions," the bill says.

Alexander proposed a similar bill in 2011, and in 2008 a House joint resolution to investigate medical marijuana was supported by former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, who came to speak to the N.C. General Assembly. None of the bills passed.

A poll conducted by Public Policy Polling found 58 percent of state residents support the legalization of medical marijuana, but opponents of the bill fear it will increase recreational use and perhaps lead to full legalization. Elon's campus seems to be similarly split.

"I think it should be legal, because unlike some prescription drugs, marijuana is not lethal," said freshmen Lauren Wallender. "You can't overdose on it."

But freshman Casey Briglia said medical marijuana might do more harm than good.

"I don't think it should be legalized because I think it would be abused," she said.

In other states, some college students have

found pain relief through medical marijuana. Igor Camilo, a student at Los Angeles City College in California, where medicinal cannabis is legal, uses the drug to treat chronic neck pain.

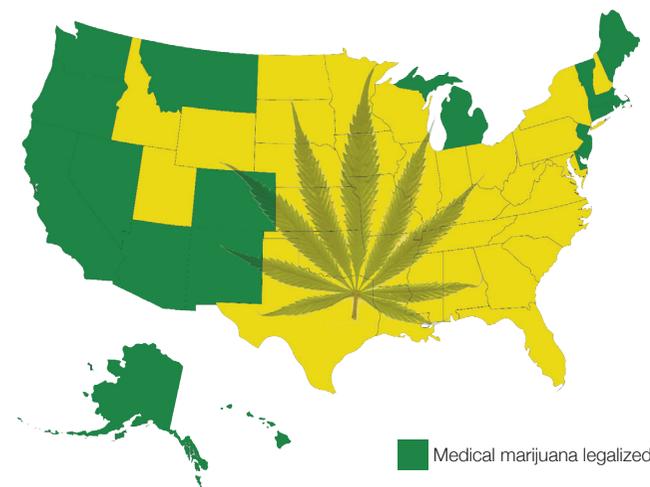
"When I don't use medical marijuana, I have to go through the day very uncomfortably," Camilo said. "Often moving or standing in certain positions or directions is incredibly difficult."

Medicinal marijuana is currently legal in 18 states, and in 2012, Washington and Colorado both made possession of an ounce of marijuana legal for anyone 21 and older.

The Obama administration has said it will not target medical marijuana dispensaries in states where they are legal, but federal officials have shut down cannabis pharmacies in states including Washington, Colorado and California, proving the controversial nature of the treatment.

Still, many dispensaries thrive nationwide.

"In California, there are doctors and offices



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN CASE | DESIGN CHIEF

who specialize in evaluating patients and giving medical marijuana recommendations," Camilo said. "I went in to one, and after filling out some basic forms, I met with a physician who talked with me about the specifics of my condition."

But some fear "qualified patients" able to purchase medical marijuana may abuse their privileges.

"I feel like what would happen with prescription pills would happen with weed," said freshman Stephen Harris. "People buy prescription pills and sell them to other people."

Elon School of Law strives to remain ahead of the curve

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

As the economic slump continues, law school applications nationwide are plummeting toward a 30-year low. Newer law programs are finding it difficult to compete against well-established schools like Harvard and Yale. But despite its recent founding in 2006, applications to the Elon University School of Law have risen above the national average.

Last year, the national law school application average was down slightly more than 20 percent, while Elon's applications were only 15 percent below average, according to Sharon Gaskin, associate dean of admissions.

The law school's focus on engaged learning and small class sizes has kept it afloat through the economic recession, according to David Crowe, a professor of legal history at the law

school. It all comes down to leadership, he said.

"The leadership of the law school is very innovative. They're not waiting," Crowe said. "They're reacting to this already and seeing this in the future."

Much of legal education is tied to tradition, according to Crowe. The strict, three year curriculum leaves little room for adjustment and specialization, he said, though he shares a different vision for Elon with his colleagues.

"The beauty of being a new law school is the flexibility," he said. "But you have very rigid barriers in that you have to prepare these kids to pass the bar."

Some students applying to law schools now, though, are concerned about their employment prospects. According to Elon senior Ben Unger, a prospective law student, it all comes down to supply versus demand.

"In general the economy itself isn't good,

and jobs are facing recession and the legal markets are being hit pretty hard," he said. "There are not enough legal jobs as is, and when you have 200 schools, you're not going to get jobs."

Unger said he felt the Elon undergraduate experience may not adequately prepare students for law school.

"I feel like education at Elon is the stress of the liberal arts, which is good for a lot of students because it gives you a well-rounded education," he said. "But at the same time, I feel like a lot of kids leave this school without particularly knowing what they want to do, unless they're in the more specific business and communication schools."

Though it is not recognized as a top 25 law school, the Elon School of Law has found other ways to attract interested students. The students pick Elon as much as Elon picks them, Crowe said.

"There's a romance about the law in people that want to go to law school that you don't find in graduate school," he said.

The student interested in Elon's law school is one who is drawn to small class sizes, discussion-based teaching and a dynamic student-faculty relationship, according to Crowe, similar to the students interested in Elon's undergraduate school.

"In the end, I think the key to really innovative education is the special student-teacher relationship," he said. "One of the dynamics of law school is that interaction in class is much more important than in undergrad, or even a graduate class."

In the end, there may not be as much to worry about as people think, Crowe said.

"Long range, you're always going to need attorneys," he said. "We live in a very litigious society. There's going to be a demand for attorneys down the road."

Gone nuts: Squirrels leave trees for Elon buildings

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

The squirrel drowned in the toilet.

Near the end of winter break, Elon University sophomore Jessica Edwards received a text from her RA informing her of the situation. Her suitemate had entered their shared bathroom in Virginia residence hall upon returning to campus and found a sodden clump of gray fur floating lifelessly in the shallow water.

“How does that even happen?” Edwards asked. “It was the weirdest thing.”

The unfortunate creature was not alone in its efforts to explore inside one of Elon's buildings. According to Tom Flood, director of landscaping and grounds, a recent explosion in Elon's squirrel population generated an army of furry trespassers.

“We have continual building damage,” he said. “There is great desire for building a nesting site inside the buildings, and wood doesn't slow them down at all. They nest in the walls, they nest between floors, and when they're in the buildings, they like to chew on metal, and they like chewing on wiring.”

Squirrels have long given Elon's groundskeepers gray hair, but this year, the *Sciurus carolinensis* has been exceptionally cunning. During the last several months, squirrels have infiltrated more than eight Elon buildings, including Johnston Hall and Virginia residence hall. Flood said they caused several roof leaks by chewing through the metal flashing surrounding rooftop pipes.



A large number of squirrels have recently become residents in Elon's buildings, leading to costly damages. AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

“This year has been particularly bad,” Flood said. “They have cost the university thousands of dollars in damages. We're trying to pull those figures together. If you get one roof leak, that could be many thousands in damages.”

Innocuous as they may appear, squirrels are expertly equipped for breaking and entering. They scale Elon's signature brick facades with their sharp claws and swiftly jump from treetops to rooftops in search of exposed pipes and vents. Squirrels can wriggle through openings as small as 1.5 inches in diameter, and they use their chisel-like teeth to enlarge cracks and holes.

Edwards said she and her suitemates speculate their post-break surprise weaseled into the building through a rooftop pipe and somehow slipped into its watery grave.

Nick Jackson, operations manager at

Animal Control Experts in Greensboro, said some squirrels consider the space between walls and floors “prime real estate.”

“There's generally a space between the flooring and drywall or plaster, and when the animals enter the structure, these cubbies are similar to what they look for in the wild,” he said. “They see the structure as a hollowed out tree.”

Squirrels also vandalize their natural habitat by stripping trees of their bark, which disrupts the transport of food and nutrients within the trunk.

“They actually chew the bark off the outside,” Flood said. “They chew through the exterior cambium, the external growing area. We had to remove six trees that were so damaged by squirrels, and we have another 30 on the list that we are watching closely.”

Jackson said squirrels occasionally eat bark as a dietary supplement when food is scarce.

“This time of year, we're getting a lot of precipitation,” he said. “The ground becomes saturated, and all the buried acorns get wet. Some will germinate or rot. If it rots, it's not good food for the squirrels, so they'll supplement their diet by chewing on bark and other things.”

Squirrels reproduce twice yearly, once in the summer and once in the winter. The winter breeding period lasts from December to February, which may account for the increase in covert nest-building activity.

But not all squirrels covet the gaps in Elon's architecture.

“Squirrels have preferences just like we do,” Jackson said. “But the ones who want to be inside will come back after they're relocated. That's why it's important to capture them and relocate them far away.”

Did You Know?

- Squirrels can fall from up to 100 feet without hurting themselves. They use their tail both for balance and as a parachute.
- The male tree squirrel takes twice as long as the female to groom itself. They are the cleanest animal in the rodent family.
- Gray squirrels are called “living fossils” because they haven't evolved in 37 million years.

Sources: *The Washington Post*, *Oregon Fish & Wildlife*

Upcoming Elon Poll will examine state politics, gun control

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

After gauging the opinions of North Carolina voters during the 2012 presidential election season, the Elon University Poll now seeks to determine how North Carolina citizens feel about various state and national issues.

The next poll, which will be conducted Feb. 24-28, will ask about voters' opinions on the state legislature, new tax proposals and newly elected Gov. Pat McCrory.

“The governor hasn't been in office very long, but he has made some appointments to specific

positions in his cabinet, so I imagine that some people in North Carolina will have some opinion on whether he's on the right track or not,” said Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon Poll.

The poll will also inquire about several proposed changes to the state's tax code. The legislature is considering eliminating personal and corporate income taxes and raising sales taxes in order to create a more business-friendly tax climate. Fernandez expressed concern that survey questions might not adequately address such a complex issue.

“I think our toughest questions are about

taxes and the deficit ceiling, because how do you frame that? How do you articulate that question?” he asked. “And do people have an honest, sincere opinion, or is everyone just saying, ‘Yeah, get rid of the income tax because that means there's more money in my pocket?’”

Regarding national issues, the Elon Poll will ask for voters' opinions on immigration, background checks for gun purchases and a ban on assault weapons.

The Elon Poll has included gun control in the past, but Fernandez said he believes recent events have prompted greater support of gun control.

“I still think because Obama's talking about it, Congress is talking about it, Harry Reid is talking about it, it is in the forefront of our mind,” he said.

The Elon Poll will also ask about voters' opinions on gay marriage, education, science and scientific investment.

Elon students conduct the survey by phone, and many of them receive bonus points in their for political science classes for participating. There are other benefits for taking part in the poll, as well.

“Students get \$10 an hour,” said Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll. “And pizza.”

Privacy Check: *Social media*

Lauryl Fischer
Senior Reporter

When Instagram released a new privacy policy last December that suggested the company would sell users' photos to advertisers without any compensation to the user, Elon University freshman Aurora Albi-Mercier was worried.

"I think not knowing if my personal photos, that I really only share with my close friends, were being shared with the rest of the world without my permission or compensation would have made me feel uncomfortable," Albi-Mercier said. "Had they instated that policy, I would have felt pressured to take my pictures down and delete my account."

Albi-Mercier is not the only one. After Instagram announced the policy change, about 4 million of its 16.7 million users deleted their accounts. Instagram returned to the original privacy policy soon after the debacle, but much of

the damage carried on into 2013.

Instagram's slip-up is one of many social media scandals in recent years. Sites including Facebook and Instagram have attempted to monetize their products, often at the expense of their users' privacy. Instagram's recent controversy serves as a reminder of the struggle social media users face: walking the line between sharing their content and protecting their privacy.

"I agree to these terms and conditions."

When Instagram announced its policy change, some of its users were outraged, and many were confused about how Instagram had the right to sell their photos at all.

"I didn't get how it was legal," said freshman Lauren Wallender. "I think it's pretty unfair. I don't post as much on Instagram, but it is your content, and it should be at your discretion to share it."

It's all explained in the terms and conditions

agreement.

The Terms and Conditions page determines what a company, such as Facebook or Instagram, can and cannot do with its users' content and its policies. It's like signing a contract: It's a commitment that users sign willingly.

David Levine, an associate professor at the Elon University School of Law, specializes in intellectual property law and studies how it operates in the sphere of technology. He said Facebook users are at a serious disadvantage when signing up for an account because there is no contract negotiation involved.

"When you agree to the terms and services — their terms and services — you are giving up your right to negotiate those terms," Levine said. "What you're giving up is a good amount of control for your privacy. You are trusting that Facebook is not going to violate a general norm in society when it comes to acceptable protections of privacy and change its rules mid-game."

Without power to negotiate, users cannot fight against any changes Facebook decides to make in its Terms of Service agreement, now or in the future. Last May, Facebook introduced the new "Timeline" format, and with it a few data policy changes that required information such as gender, profile picture and cover photo to remain public. Users who were unhappy with these requirements were simply told by Facebook's blog site they could delete their profile pictures and cover photos.

Similarly, when Instagram published its controversial public policy, the company was within its rights to make such changes. Just as Facebook utilizes its user information to personalize ads, Instagram could have taken its users' photos, if not for the consumer backlash that cut their consumer base in half. It's all in the terms and conditions.

But because of heavy legal jargon and length — Facebook's terms and conditions page is more than 14,000 words —, not many people bother to read the document. Levine said he has read research suggesting barely more than one percent of social media users read it.



Back

INSTAGRAM

We are updating our privacy policy

Note: Our updated Privacy Policy will be effective on January 19, 2013.

Privacy Policy "Snapshot"

We created this quick "snapshot" to give you a head start on understanding our information collection and use practices. It is important that you read our full [Privacy Policy](#) for the full explanation of our privacy practices, including

Back

Terms of Use

We are updating our Terms of Use: Our updated Terms of Use will be effective on January 19, 2013.

By using the instagr.am/instagram.com website and Instagram service you are agreeing to be bound by the following terms and conditions ("Terms of Use").

Basic Terms

changes highlight importance of terms, conditions

percent of social media users read it.

“Only .11 percent of people read the terms and conditions on Facebook,” he said. “Of that percentage, only a fraction understands what they’re reading. That means 99 percent of Facebook users do not realize what they’re signing up for.”

Because of the confusing nature of the Terms and Conditions, many people have risen up to protest, forming websites like biggestlie.com and commonterms.net. Both these websites petition for easier-to-understand Terms and Conditions agreements. They also summarize the documents for those who don’t want to spend time reading.

To tweet or not to tweet

The terms and conditions may be binding, but concerned users can still protect themselves. Just hit “delete.”

“There is no foolproof, iron-clad way of protecting ourselves,” Levine said. “If you don’t like what a site is doing though, you can always delete. That’s why I don’t have a Facebook account anymore.”

But for many people, opting out of social media is not a realistic option. Its role in most people’s lives continues to expand and social media sites are gaining users everyday. According to a study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, more than 90 percent of on-line teens participate in social media. Facebook itself recently passed over one billion users—nearly one-seventh of the world’s population—according to the website.

Many professions all but require Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts, especially those in the communications field.

“Social media skills are some of the most useful today,” said freshman Meagan Darling. “We can use social media to help our fellow students. It may not be necessary, but it’s another form of effective communication.”

If deleting an account isn’t a plausible or desirable option, users can stay informed of the changes that social media undergoes. It requires reading the new Terms and Conditions every time there is an update and learning how

to use privacy settings effectively.

“With so many people able to Google your name and find you on tons of media sites, it is a little daunting, but also exhilarating,” Albi-Mercier said. “Personally, because I’ve traveled and met friends from other parts of the world, I try to keep my Facebook open to the public so anyone can find me. It has made it easier to connect with other people, but it also means that I have to monitor what is seen on my Facebook.”

A site launched in summer 2012 called “We Know What You’re Doing” proves perfect strangers can see what others post, depending on their privacy settings. Any publicly-posted Facebook status is fair game and can be posted to the website. Statuses range from complaints about bosses to descriptions of personal alcohol and drug use.

The authors of these posts could have prevented the publicity if they had used their privacy settings, or had not posted it at all.

Levine said he believes social media companies are listening to people’s concerns, because sites like Facebook and Twitter are businesses that want to gain customers.

“Social media are not oblivious to wanting to serve the community,” he said. “They want people to feel more comfortable about sharing more information, they want people to be active on their sites. And we are seeing a lessening of concern, broadly speaking, in privacy and sharing of information from the consumer as well.”

Graph Search ushers in the future

While concern may be decreasing, people still care about their information and who is seeing it online. In 2011, The INSEAD business school and the Oxford Internet Institute surveyed more than 5,400 respondents in 13 countries. Fifty-five percent of all respondents agreed that protecting freedom of expression and privacy online was important. Less than 50 percent believed the Internet was a safe place to express opinions at all.

The newest concern is “Graph Search,” a Facebook feature announced mid-January that is currently in beta testing. Graph Search was given to a small percentage of Facebook users

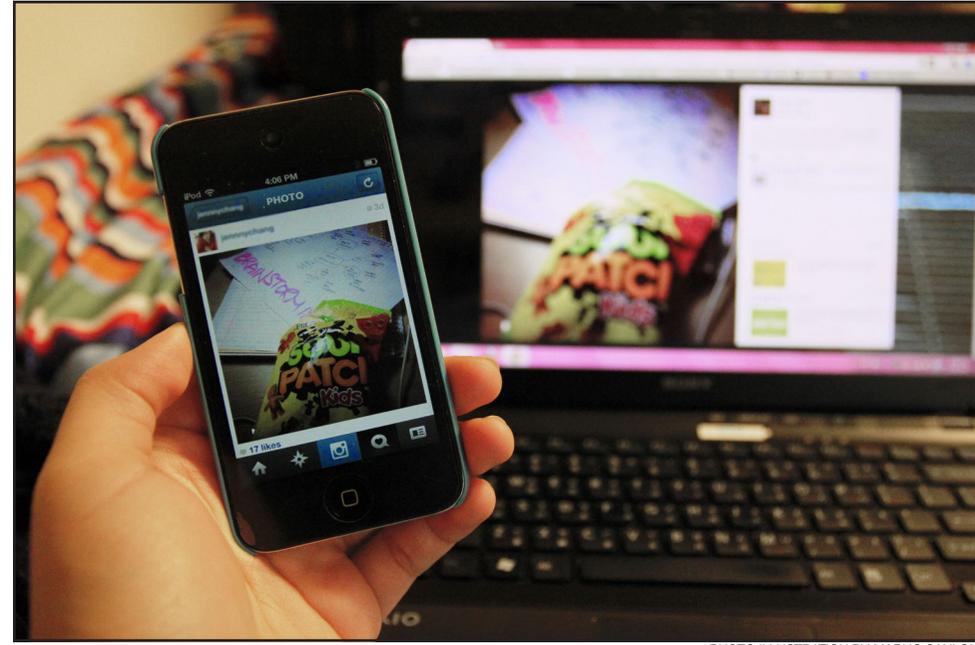


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO SAULON

at random, and the company will open it to all users later in the year.

Graph Search acts a lot like Google. Users type in key words and phrases to discover friends with similar likes and interests. It’s like searching tags on Pinterest or Twitter, only its searches are much more selective and personal. Want to find married men in North Carolina who like prostitutes? Type it in on Graph Search and the engine will instantly compile a list of candidates who fit the bill.

If Facebook permanently installs Graph Search, it will change how users find their friends and what information they can and cannot protect.

A Tumblr blog, “Actual Facebook Graph Searches,” spurred concern when it went viral and exposed the potential dangers of the tool. When Graph Search is eventually released to the rest of Facebook’s users, these concerns are likely to multiply.

“It sounds cool in theory, but you need to be safe online, and I feel like that is an easy way for predators posing as other people to find their targets,” said sophomore Jessica Edwards. “I only want to be friends with the people I know. I don’t want to be spammed, and I don’t want to

be harassed.”

But Graph Search could also propel Facebook to the top, overthrowing Google and taking the throne as the new No. 1 search engine. Graph Search can find people and places based on what users and their friends want and like, making it the most personalized search engine on the Internet.

Levine is more wary of the new Facebook feature.

“The speed and effectiveness of this search is of concern. Arguably, this material was already available, but not robustly searchable,” Levine said. “Now that it is, it will remain to be seen whether it violates any privacy norms as they exist in Facebook.”

Further speculation will likely arise when Graph Search goes into full effect. But users still are not completely powerless. Instagram pulled back when users protested its new privacy policy by deleting their accounts, and Facebookers can decide whether Graph Search is a desirable tool.

“Much of what you do on the Internet is voluntary,” Levine said. “No one is forcing you to get on Facebook or tweet, so you can still control your own privacy.” §

Why are we settling for lackluster leadership?

Leadership is about more than dress suits, handshakes, pleasant Twitter accounts and annual holiday parties. It is a responsibility to enrich the minds of a generation, challenge others to consider different perspectives and have the courage to stand up for what you believe in.

At Elon University, we are settling for middling leadership. We seem to be satisfied with our leaders, but are they doing enough to warrant our devotion? Perhaps we are too quick to accept our administration's pleasant, politically correct statements in the face of controversy.

As you may recall, Elon's Board of Trustees created a Vendor Policy Study Committee last October in response to the controversy concerning Chick-fil-A. Elon made a wise decision in creating this committee. Other universities made rash decisions on whether to let Chick-fil-A remain on their campuses while ours is taking the time to come to a well thought-out decision. Not only is the committee examining the policies and practices of Chick-fil-A, but also those of other vendors with whom our university has relations. We applaud Elon for this, but there is a problem: This committee has diffused accountability.

Do any of us know where our administrators stand on the Chick-fil-A issue or on other controversial issues that would require them to take a stand and risk of offending someone? Probably not, unless you've had one-on-one conversations with members of the administration. The student body is receiving generic, politically correct statements that tiptoe around the issues. Our administration is acting more like a public relations firm than the leaders of our generation.

There's a debate occurring in higher education as to whether administrators ought to stand up for such issues. We realize donations and application rates are at risk, but there are some things worth standing up for.

Dr. Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs, made no statements regarding the Chick-fil-A debate. Shouldn't we be hearing from someone who has done so much for our university?

He's the "chief academic officer" of our university, one that preaches service, global citizenship and a commitment to diversity.

In 2001, he became the founding dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences. He helped develop the Elon College Fellows Program and worked with faculty to develop Elon's application to have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter on campus. He is clearly an integral part of our university, but apparently has nothing to say when it comes to contentious topics like Chick-fil-A.

President Lambert has made a mere two statements regarding the issue, none of which involve taking a stand. On Oct. 18, 2012, he made his first public statement.

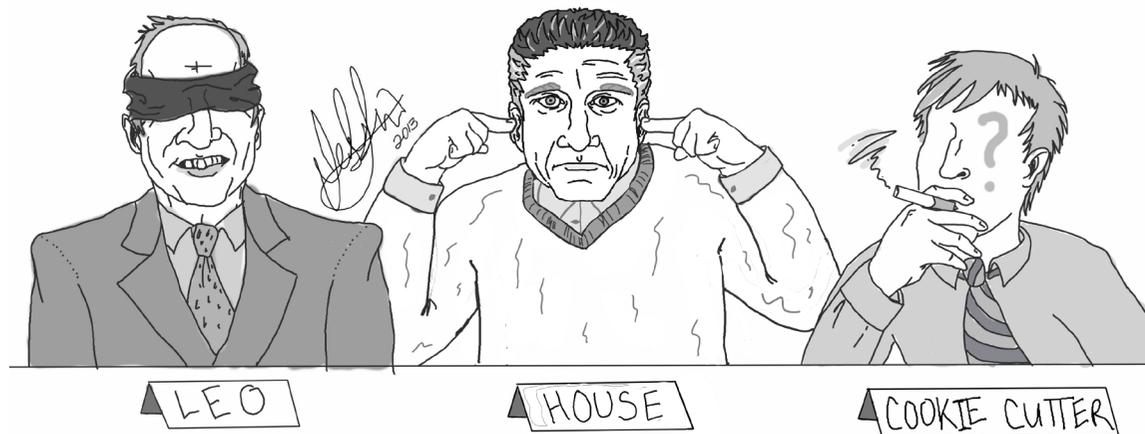
He spent the first few paragraphs objectively explaining how the issue has generated debate on our campus. He clarified that a decision had not yet been reached, but named committee members who would present to the Board of Trustees later in the academic year. He provided an email address for people who wished to offer their input on this issue and informed us of a discussion that was to be held regarding the broader issues at stake. It was all very matter-of-fact.

On Oct. 30, Lambert released another statement. He listed each member of the committee and expressed his gratitude to those on it.

He went on to say, "As a university community, we do not and should not avoid respectful debate about the controversial issues of our day."

We ought to consider the fact that President Lambert encourages civil debate and applauds others for sharing their viewpoints, but withholds his own. As president, he shouldn't leave Elon students hanging out to dry. There were many who no longer felt accepted at Elon — isn't this an appro-

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN



CARTOON BY JESSICA GREMBOWSKI

priate time for a president to step in?

After the racial slurs that were made last year, our administration launched a "Not On Our Campus" campaign. President Lambert and Smith Jackson spoke at a special College Coffee to demonstrate Elon's commitment to tolerance. According to an article on E-Net, Lambert told the student body the easy road would have been for individuals to do and say nothing, to ignore injustice and to let discrimination proceed without comment. Isn't that precisely what is happening with the Chick-fil-A debate?

While it was respectable for our administration to take a stand against racism, it was not praiseworthy. We all agree that racism is unjust; we don't all agree on the legal definition of marriage.

Of course there is risk involved in stating one's opinions on a hot-button issue, but this is what being a leader is about. There is a way to be politically savvy while also showing one's personal convictions. As a student body, we need to start demanding this from our leaders. Perhaps our administration should take a cue from other influential educational leaders.

Derek Bok, former president of Harvard University, was an advocate for many issues during his time as president. In 2000, he co-authored a book that changed the debate on affirmative action in America.

In this book, "The Shape of the River," Bok essentially defends affirmative action in college admissions. His stance certainly created controversy and generated criticism, but he defended his convictions, a hallmark of strong leadership.

Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987, also provided strong leadership in the face of controversy. Hesburgh faced criticism in the 1960s and 1970s with his liberal views on civil rights and his support of Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1972, he made another bold move by opening Notre Dame's doors to women. He was not universally liked and probably would not have enjoyed as many retweets as President Lambert, but there's no denying his courageous leadership.

Although our administration clearly cares a good deal about our community, it is also clear they are simply not doing enough. Our university leaders should be role models, but if they're failing to stand up for crucial issues facing our generation, who will? With Student Government Association elections taking place today, now is the time to strongly consider what it means to be a worthy leader. As a student body, we shouldn't be settling for uncourageous, politically correct leadership. We ought to be demanding more.

Follow the leader?

U.K. legalizes gay marriage, U.S. still split

On Feb. 5, Britain's House of Commons made headway on a contentious debate in America: gay marriage. The members of this house of Parliament voted 400-175 in favor of legalizing gay marriage. "The bill now goes to committee and then to the House of Lords," Los Angeles Times reporter Henry Chu wrote. "But its approval in the House of Commons makes it highly likely that it will eventually become law."

I wish I could say this legislation would push the United States government to act, but I have trouble believing our government will take a cue from the U.K., regardless of whether their approach is successful. The United States has to make its own decision

on this issue. Although our country is similar to the U.K., there's a reason we are separate entities. We have different views on many subjects. If we were the same, what would be the point of being independent nations?

Anyone who has spent time in Britain can tell you the U.K., as well as other Western European countries, is more progressive than the United States, as evidenced by its flat fee of £9,000 per year for university students, its lack of firearms in regular police forces and its nationalized health care system. The fact that this legislation is being furthered in the U.K. comes as no surprise to me because of the country's generally liberal outlook. But what would pleasantly surprise me is if the American government followed suit.

A Los Angeles Times editorial on this topic brings up a strong point as to why I believe it will be a while before gay marriage becomes federal law in the United States:

"One obvious difference is that this country is a union of 50 'sovereign' and diverse states and that laws defining marriage are traditionally enacted at the state level."

Certain parts of the country are far less keen on gay marriage. While I think it is wrong that marriages between two people who love each other is recognized by some states and not by others, I understand different groups in different states will have opinions other than my own. It is obvious that because marriage is a state issue and not a federal one, it will be a long while before every state votes to allow gay marriage.

More states are getting closer to accepting gay marriage, like my home state Illinois approving a bill to legalize gay marriage just last week. If it is approved by the House and Gov. Pat Quinn, it will be the 10th state to legalize gay marriage.

I believe, at the very least, the U.K.'s actions will give hope to those who support

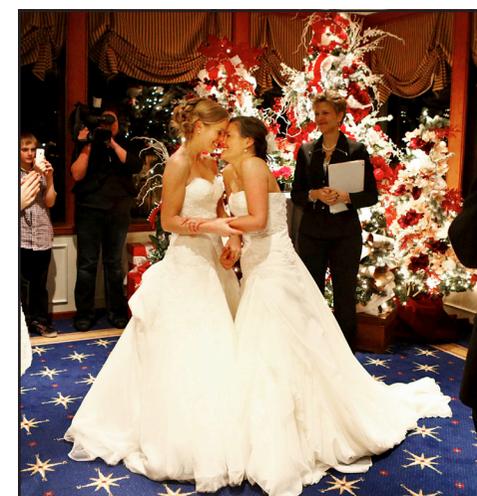


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
A couple exchanged vows in Dec. 2012. While the U.S. has yet to pass federal laws allowing such unions, the U.K. made steps to do so last week.

gay marriage. I hope the U.S. government will use the U.K.'s passage of this law as an opportunity to observe how the public receives this new legislation. Even though the United States is progressing in terms of legislation regarding this issue, the government has a long way to go. Perhaps now that there is an example for the United States to follow, legislators can work to craft a more accepting country, similar to that of the nation from which we came.

Pope resigns out of modesty, devotion to his faith

In 1415, amid the turmoil of the Great Western Schism and a decade into his tenure, Pope Gregory XII resigned. It has been nearly six centuries — 598 years, to be exact — since his resignation. Every pope since then has died in office, until last week.

The resignation of Pope Benedict XVI came as a startling surprise. He announced he no longer felt capable of serving the highest seat of

Catholicism and the Sovereign of Vatican City due to health issues. It has become a tradition, perhaps a responsibility, for the pope to remain in his seat until death. Benedict's deviation from the norm may come as a surprise to some, but others in the Catholic Church see it as inevitable or even

a relief.

A feeble pope, hardly able to stand on his own, struggling to mutter a few coherent words, was once a show of strength as he addressed onlookers. He was devoted to the papacy, to the Church and of course, to God. But today, in a period of constant change, where practicality has greater appeal than the intangible and where secrets are quickly revealed, his resignation may appear as a sign of weakness — a frustrating regression.

But Benedict deserves credit for recognizing the new era and for taking steps to help the Catholic Church adapt to it. The steps he took begin with his Twitter account and end with his almost Washingtonian resignation. To reach out to the faithful and especially the youth, His Holiness created a Twitter account late last year under the name Benedict XVI and @Pontifex. He has more than 1.5 million followers but only follows eight, all of which are Pope Benedict

XVI accounts in different languages.

From the issues of abortion and same-sex marriage to copious sex scandals, the Church has received a lot of flak in recent years. Benedict inherited a burden and was simply in a wrong time, wrong place situation. As a conservative attempting to get back to the roots of the Church, he saw the swiftly changing world as too much to handle, especially since he was inaugurated at the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Pope Benedict XVI announced during a mass Mon., Feb. 11, that he plans to step down on Feb. 28.

age of 77.

The regulations and beliefs of the Catholic Church, deemed antiquated by some, are what Benedict believes need to be reinstated. In the name of modernity and in an attempt to reignite the fire of the Church, Benedict is resigning and passing the baton to his successor, whomever that may be. With the loss of Catholics through cultural influences, Catholicism has been diminishing. The task at hand for the Catholic Church is to remain relevant.

Benedict's resignation is not an escape from the scandals, but a testament to his confidence in God, his love for the Church and devotion to his faith. He's not passing on an at-risk position; he is giving up his seat because he is confident his successor will be more fit than he to deal with today's issues. As a service to the Church and its future, Pope Benedict resigned out of humility and out of full devotion to the establishment and to his faith.



Mary Kate Brogan
Coulmnist



Ryan Lee
Coulmnist

Modernized public transportation fuels Seville

MacKenzie Roberts
Senior Reporter

SEVILLE, SPAIN – As the capital of Andalusia and the fourth largest city in Spain, Seville is turning heads with an impressive public transportation system. Where you would expect a city crowded with cars and the incessant honking of horns, the quiet hum of buses and trams fills the air.

The previous mayor of Seville, Alfredo Sanchez Monteseirín, made extensive changes to improve public transportation during his time in office. These changes included creating bicycle lanes, redirecting traffic to allow for expanded pedestrian zones in the historic area, completing the metro-line project and creating “El Tranvia,” the tramline that runs through La Avenida de la Constitución.

As a result, the people of Seville are able to walk safely through traffic-free streets of

the historic area. While cars are no longer an issue, pedestrians are not the only ones lining the streets. Along with the expanded walkways, bike lanes were constructed for roller skaters, skateboarders and bicyclists. Fines discourage people from walking on these lanes. After speaking with several Spaniards about these changes, the general consensus was positive. Locals enjoyed the increased accessibility of public transportation and lack of cars and other private vehicles.

With cars no longer crowding the streets, traffic is a non-issue and there are fewer toxins in the air. Many individuals had expressed concern about pollution damaging the Seville Cathedral, located along La Avenida de la Constitución. Local residents of Seville agreed the Cathedral benefited from the removal of traffic in the area.

The tram has been extremely helpful in cutting back the use of cars, as it is both accessible and affordable. According to metro-sevilla.es, a ticket for unlimited usage is less than five euros. Seville resident Juan Maria said the tram has developed into a useful means of transportation for older residents within the city. “Not only is it safer for them to walk around the area with the tram slowly moving than crazy drivers in the street, it is very user friendly for people of all ages. It’s nice to see the older couples walking around and enjoying the area like they used to,” Maria said. Biking has also grown in popularity, as bikes are easily accessible. Located in numerous spots throughout Seville are the “Sevici” bike racks. At any of the kiosks located throughout the city, a €25 pass allows individuals to use the

bikes at their leisure. Bikes picked up from a rack by the river can later be dropped off at a rack across town. After 30 minutes, there will be an additional charge, but the locals explain simply switching bikes allows them to ride another 30 minutes. Apps for smart phones indicate where each Sevici bike rack is located. The bus is another common way of getting around the city. Age is irrelevant, as students and the elderly alike form lengthy lines by the bus stops near Plaza de Duque. The buses use the same ticket system as the tram, making it easy for people living and working in the city to get around on a tight budget. Spain’s economy shows no signs of improvement, so Spaniards aim to cut corners with their budgets. With a 26 percent unemployment rate and layoffs occurring daily, the public transportation system is becoming increasingly popular. Spain’s struggling economy has made

the affordability of Seville’s public transportation alluring for local residents. Personal vehicles are rarely found, as buses, bicycles and pedestrians now fill the streets of Seville.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MACKENZIE ROBERTS
“El Tranvia,” Seville’s new tram system, is a modern and efficient source of transportation for local residents.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MACKENZIE ROBERTS
Bikers and pedestrians have full access to the spacious paths.



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Correspondent's Corner



EMILY CINQUEMANI

It has been a busy past few weeks in Ireland! There is still a lot of debate surrounding abortion laws, which have been a controversial topic recently. A detective in the Garda, Ireland’s national police service, was recently murdered, a rarity in Ireland. Also, Tesco is currently undergoing investigation because horsemeat was found in their ground beef.

Lastly, property tax has been a topic of debate, as Ireland is currently trying to pass a property tax law similar to the one we have in the U.S. There has never been a property tax law of this nature in Ireland before, and people are upset about it. The proposed tax was recently protested during a demonstration in the city centre last week.

Study Abroad:

Fall 2012 vs. Spring 2013

299 people

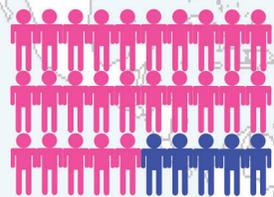
135 people

Top 4 Destinations

- 1.) Florence, Italy – 41
- 2.) London, England – 34
- 3.) Sunshine Coast, Australia & Dublin, Ireland – 24
- 4.) Copenhagen, Denmark – 21

- 1.) London, England – 34
- 2.) Florence, Italy – 18
- 3.) San Jose, Costa Rica – 13
- 4.) Sunshine Coast, Australia & Copenhagen, Denmark – 5

The Elon Ratio



Out of 299 people, 248 were female and 51 were male.

Class ratio: 40 seniors, 253 juniors, 6 sophomores

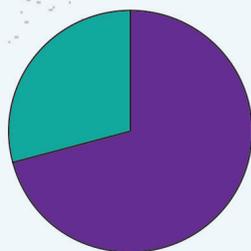


Out of 135 people, 107 were female and 28 were male.

Class ratio: 50 seniors, 63 juniors, 22 sophomores

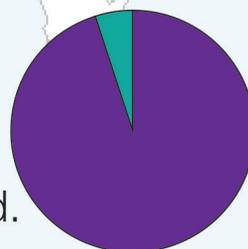
Other Information:

• *Elon's first study abroad center was in London, England, in the early 1990s. Elon now has three study abroad centers: London, England, Florence, Italy and San Jose, Costa Rica.*



71 percent of Elon students study abroad at least once.

95 percent of current first-years plan to study abroad.



• **Elon has 60 programs** that are affiliated through Elon or work as exchange programs.

First comes college, then comes marriage

Elon student looks forward to tying the knot after receiving degree

Katy Canada
Senior Reporter

Ginna Claire Mason has seven flower girls, seven bridesmaids, six honorary bridesmaids and the perfect wedding dress.

The date has been set, the location has been booked and the napkins and silverware have been chosen. The only thing left on Mason's to-do list before the wedding: Graduate college.

But according to her, these final months seem like no time at all compared to the two years Mason spent falling in love with her fiancé, Eric Moffett.

The couple met in the summer of 2010, when Mason, a senior music theater major at Elon University, landed a professional acting job in Findlay, Ohio. She was playing the part of Millie in "Thoroughly Modern Millie," her dream role, and Chiffon in "Little Shop of Horrors."

Becca Moffett, one of Mason's closest friends from Elon, happened to live close by in Toledo.

"I joined a Bible study my freshman year at Elon called Crazy Love, and Becca was the leader of the group," Mason said. "My first Sunday in Ohio, I went to church with Becca and her family."

Throughout the summer, Mason spent most of her spare time with the Moffett family in addition to attending church with them. During that time, Mason met Becca's older brother Mark as well as her older brother Eric, who would become Mason's future fiancé.

However, Mason and Moffett's first date was completely unexpected.

On the Fourth of July, everyone in the Moffett family had left town except for Eric, so he and Mason decided to watch fireworks together. The pair officially started dating Aug. 15, 2010.

"It's been fireworks ever since," Mason said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GINNA CLAIRE MASON
Elon University senior Ginna Claire Mason and her fiancé, Eric Moffett, met in Ohio in 2010 when Mason landed an acting job for the summer. The pair plans to wed June 28 after Mason graduates.

Living miles apart

When the pair began dating, Moffett was studying aviation science at Metro State University in Denver, Colo., and Mason was a sophomore at Elon. When the fall semester began, the couple was separated by a time zone.

"We just had to make it work," Mason said. "We talked and Skyped whenever we could."

In fact, much of their relationship has been spent in different parts of the world. In 2012, Moffett moved to Ohio to start a new job and Mason was studying abroad in London.

But they maintained their relationship through a variety of romantic gestures, according to Mason.

While Mason was in London, Moffett sent her a care package filled with thoughtful, quirky gifts, like a Ninja Turtle onesie, that were reminiscent of inside jokes.

Additionally, Moffett has demonstrated his devotion by surprising Mason with tickets to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Denver Theatre and taking her on spontaneous swing dancing dates.

Mason said being in separate parts of the world for the majority of their relationship has made her appreciate other things that occur around her everyday.

"I think it was really unique for my college experience because I got to enjoy exactly where I was," she said.

A storybook proposal

In the summer of 2012, Mason was doing summer stock work at a theater in Oklahoma. Moffett, who was nearing the culmination of his aviation science training in Nebraska, had been discussing the possibility of marriage with Mason's parents and brothers for two months. He even included her friends in his plan for the proposal.

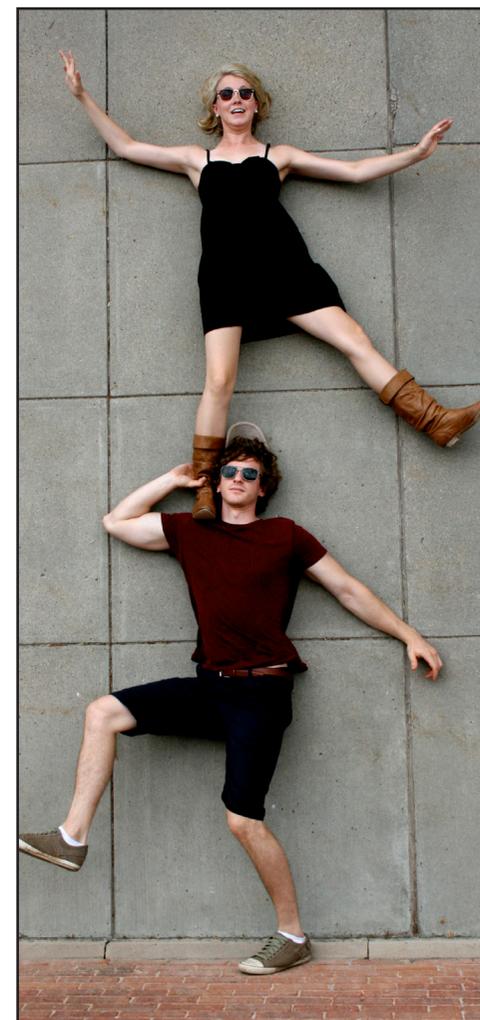


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GINNA CLAIRE MASON
Mason and Moffett endured the challenges of a long-distance relationship by sending each other care packages and Skyping whenever possible.

After passing his final aviation science exam, Moffett drove 12 hours to surprise Mason in Oklahoma.

"My friend, who was in on the secret, woke me up at 5 a.m. to go watch the sun rise over a lake," Mason said. "I was up for the adventure, so we went."

They drove to the lake, and standing on the end of the dock was a man holding flowers. Mason said she remembers thinking they were possibly ruining someone else's romantic surprise.

"When I realized it was him, I thought



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GINNA CLAIRE MASON

Mason poses with three of her bridesmaids on the day of her bridal shower. Mason has seven bridesmaids total in addition to six honorary bridesmaids and seven flower girls.

he was just coming to see a show that I was in," Mason said.

Then, Moffett got down on one knee and popped the question. Mason said yes, and the date is set for June 28.

Perfect timing

Though Mason is getting married shortly after she graduates, she still said her advice to other couples is the age-old saying, "Slow and steady wins the race."

"There's no reason to rush into marriage, because it's a huge commitment," she said.

But Mason said she personally does not feel her marriage is too soon. She and Moffett, who is 26 years old, will have been together for three years when they get married this summer. She believes their age difference has played a role in their decision to get married right away. Mason, who is 23, said her fiance is more mature than most college guys.

"If he were my age, it would probably be harder to make all this happen," she said. "I know something important to him was having a steady job so he could tell my dad



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHTON WILKSTROM

Ashton Wilkstrom, formerly Ashton Vincenty, was a member of Sweet Signatures a cappella group during her time at Elon. She performed a song for her groom with the help of Sweet Signatures at her wedding.

that he could support me."

One of Mason's bridesmaids, Ellie Erikson, said she couldn't imagine her friend marrying anyone else. She said she has seen their relationship evolve and has watched them grow as a couple.

"Eric is the perfect match for Ginna Claire," Erikson said. "He is incredibly caring, intelligent and strong in his faith. It's a little surreal watching her plan her wedding and prepare for married life."

Mason said she feels people are less surprised when they learn she is engaged because she lives in the South. She said she's found that young marriage is more socially acceptable in this region than in others.

Still, not everyone feels ready for such a



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHTON WILKSTROM

Wilkstrom married her high school sweetheart in December after enduring a long-distance relationship while she attended Elon. The pair now lives in Los Angeles, and Wilkstrom's brother Jack Vincenty is an Elon freshman.

large commitment. Sarah Hoppe, an Elon freshman from California, can't see herself getting married right after she finishes college.

"It's great if two people are so in love right out of college, but I personally would want to wait a while because I'm sure life will change a lot after I graduate," she said.

But Mason isn't the only Elon student getting married shortly after college. Ashton Wilkstrom, formerly Ashton

Vincenty, graduated from Elon in May 2012 and married her high school sweetheart last December.

Like Mason, Wilkstrom and her husband endured a long-distance relationship throughout college. She said she has learned there is no exact science when it comes to the ideal time for marriage.

"It's all just a matter of opinions," Wilkstrom said. "It's a very personal choice and different for every couple." §

Smooth Progressions presents opportunities as new all-male a cappella group

Megan Cummins
Senior Reporter

There are so many a cappella groups on campus, sometimes it's tough to keep track.

With rehearsals, concerts, competitions and recordings, as well as repertoires ranging from pop to indie, each a cappella group at Elon University boasts its own particular identity.

While Rip_Chord has been Elon's lone all-male group since its establishment in 2006, junior Montez Brown and sophomore Cody Schmidt have broken this six-year precedent by founding newest all-male a cappella group, Smooth Progressions.

"Over the past few years I have become aware of the immense amount of vocal talent on campus that often gets neglected due to limited space in other groups and performances," Brown said. "I decided that starting one more would create new opportunities for students to showcase those talents."

The group's inauguration has been in the

works for months.

Beginning September 2012, Brown and Schmidt worked with the Office of Student Life, specifically with student worker Lauren Wilkins and head of the entertainment cluster Janis Baughman, to complete Elon's very specific procedure for the creation of new a cappella groups.

The process included filling out paperwork, choosing an adviser, creating bylaws for the organization and, finally, awaiting approval from Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

Five months later, Smooth Progressions has been approved. The group is now moving forward by configuring its ensemble singers, as well as its personal style.

"The interest meeting on Jan. 14 had a great turnout," Brown said. "But I'd like to complete the audition process and figure out the genre and types of music the group will perform based on the types of vocal styles that come together."

With a number of opportunities that have already popped up, Brown hopes to put on a



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Thirteen new members were chosen to join Smooth Progressions after a round of auditions and callbacks were held Feb. 16. The group has 15 members total, including co-founders Montez Brown and Cody Schmidt.

concert by the end of the semester. He said the next few months will require immense hard work from future Smooth Progressions members to sound as good as possible for their first performance.

Even on a small campus with four pre-existing a cappella ensembles, Brown said the

group is not focused on being better or creating a more unique group than Vital Signs, Sweet Signatures, Twisted Measure or Rip_Chord.

"Being a college a cappella group, there will obviously be similarities across the board," he said. "Our hope is just to entertain the campus and bring a new sound in the process."

Eleonore's Hair Design characterized by unique history, loyal clientele

Katy Canada
Senior Reporter

When Eleonore Dunn began working as a hair stylist in 1976, Elon University students still called themselves the Fighting Christians.

The kilns and easels that make up the current Arts West building were the shelves of a Winn-Dixie grocery store, and the Elon Town Center was a small hair salon called Renegade. This is where Dunn took her first job as a hair stylist after moving to Elon from Germany in 1965.

University professors and the Elon College football team were among Dunn's first customers at Renegade.

But working at Renegade wasn't always easy for Dunn. She said she faced ethnic discrimination from her clientele and, in some cases, her employers.

"They would say, 'I don't want that German cutting my hair,'" Dunn said.

In 1977, she left Renegade. A barbershop had just closed on the same block in Elon. Seizing the opportunity to move in, Dunn and a few of her regulars from Renegade made the transi-

tion to operating an independent salon called Eleonore's Hair Design, which offers haircuts, perms, color and waxing, and still remains on Williamson Avenue today.

The 1970s were a much simpler time for Elon, Dunn said. She witnessed dramatic growth in the student population as well as changes in physical size and appearance of the campus.

The most significant change, she said, has been how the university and the surrounding community of Elon work together.

"There used to be a neighborhood separate from Elon," Dunn said. "Now, there are much fewer residents. The university wants to take over."

Dunn also said Elon's local government has become closely affiliated with Elon University. Local officials are quick to institute policies that the university wants to see put in place. She said communication between the school administration and the town was much clearer during Dr. Fred Young's presidency at Elon.

"With Dr. Young, we had a community and we worked together," she said.

Today, Eleonore's Hair Design receives busi-



KATY CANADA | Senior Reporter

Eleonore Dunn has owned and operated Eleonore's Hair Design on Williamson Avenue since 1977.

ness from Elon alumni and retired professors, but students rarely wander into the salon. Dunn draws most of her clientele from the Town of Elon, Burlington and Greensboro.

At 68 years old, Dunn said she does not wish to retire yet. She said her issues with Elon's administration are nothing compared to the loyalty she has to her customers, many of whom are elderly and rely on her for regular appointments.

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Review: 'Vagina Monologues' remains unabashed, elicits strong audience reaction

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

"The Vagina Monologues" has become a Valentine's Day staple on Elon University's campus, but the 2013 rendition was infused with an unabashed energy that heightened the performance. Sponsored by Women's Gender Studies and Elon Feminists, the all-female cast performed for a full Yeager Recital Hall, which offered aisle seating to accommodate the overflow.

"The Vagina Monologues," written by Eve



CAROLINE OLNEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior Kanree Wright performs "My Angry Vagina" during "The Vagina Monologues" Feb. 14.

Ensler and first performed in 1996, is a series of monologues surrounding women and the various conversations surrounding their vaginas. From a sex worker who loves to make women moan to an older woman scared into ignoring her vagina until old age, the monologues cover every problem imaginable.

With this unusual topic, things can get uncomfortable. As the play mentions, it is not often women talk freely about vaginas, which is why this play relies heavily on its performers. In this case, they did not disappoint.

Every actress, in her own way, embraced and brought her character to life in an organic way. Some of the highlights included the actress whose vagina was "pissed off," which brought an extended applause. The audience also responded with an exceptionally positive reaction when another actress reclaimed the c-word, encouraging audience members to scream it out with her.

The show may have opened to nervous giggles, but by the end, the hall was ringing with laughter. In between, there were moments of shuddering, where sounds of discomfort or shock could be heard, but that was why the play was created. The performers knew to play off the audience, talking to them as they would to their best friend and pausing to revel in the laughter.

The overall sentiment of the audience was delight and praise. Sophomore Yasmine Arrington saw the show after hearing about it long ago from a teacher at her high school who had performed in it. Seeing it at Elon, she said, was far from a disappointment.

"Sex can be a taboo, but it was amazing to see the different perspectives from different countries and different ages," Arrington said.

Women like Arrington were not the only audience members. Tino Monroe, a sophomore from Papua New Guinea, was one of the male audience members.

"I came because I found the idea striking," Monroe said. "I sought it out to learn more."

Both Arrington and Monroe said "The Vagina Monologues," which they assumed would include anti-male sentiment, pleasantly surprised them. Arrington said she thought men could learn more about women from the show.

This year, the show ended with something more powerful than a single final monologue – the women showed a video that depicted women struggling with problems against their gender, such as rape and genital mutilation. The video was for One Billion Rising, an organization fighting for women equality and women's rights. While the video elicited some unpleasant reactions from the audience, it was a powerful



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer
Senior Arayael Brandner performs during "The Vagina Monologues" on Valentine's Day last week.

way to end a show about women.

"The Vagina Monologues" may not be for everyone. There are not many people who are comfortable talking about vaginas or listening to stories about vaginas. But one thing can be said – all who came out to "The Vagina Monologues" left with a smile on their face and a little more knowledge about women's struggles.

Faculty question the concept of an art kit in exhibition

Jessica Petrocchi
Senior Reporter

There are not many places at Elon University where somebody can find a description of Hiroshima through scrapbooking and braille, political figure puppets and an artistic examination of shaving an ingrown hair.

This year, the department of art and art history's Faculty Biennial exhibition surrounded the idea of an art kit. These packages usually contain an array of artistic materials such as paintbrushes, chalk and pencils so a buyer can purchase the utensils at once.

This concept takes on a different meaning for each faculty member and, therefore, was addressed very differently.

In honor of the exhibition's opening Feb. 11, the artists participated in a panel discussion where they spun a numbered wheel and each number corresponded to a specific question. Other times, audience members could ask questions.

"When I'm thinking about making art, I'm thinking about how I can draw the audience in," said Ken Hassell, associate professor of art. "And part of that is the structure we all think of."

Until April 9, faculty members Samantha DiRosa, Michael Fels, Judy Hendricks, Young Do Kim, Juan Obando, Mike Sanford, Anne Simpkins and LM Wood will show their work in the Center for the Arts' Isabella Cannon Room.

Hassell's piece took a very unique approach compared to his peers.

"It's going to be a very different kind of experience – a performance piece," he said.

The art seemed to be asking the overarching question of whether artists are glorified craft hobbyists or something more.

"I'm just a producer of kits – I'm 'Kit,'" said Fels, whose two pieces in the room were a photograph and a painting of him wearing a white T-shirt labeled "Kit."

Kim said he hoped to present art as

something more complex and wondrous than what a kit might be able to offer. He displayed large panels with a connect-the-dots outline. If the dots were to be connected, the audience would be looking at Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam."

"I am asking people to kind of just use their imaginations," Kim said.

Most of the art professors had never used an art kit or other package that restricted creative boundaries. For example, the idea of buying a corporate paint-by-number box may not have been on the professors' minds for years, but Simpkins decided to run with that idea.

For this exhibition, she created her own paint-by-number art.

"I was really interested in how idyllic paint-by-number imagery is," Simpkins said.

She based her painting on her recent travels to China with her family. Before their trip, her children based their perceptions of the Chinese people on stereotypes, movies and cartoons.

She said now her goal is to help people

question what is considered beautiful.

Each piece in the exhibition told a completely different story based on the same general prompt. By hearing each artist explain their process through the panel discussion, the art took on new life and new meaning.

"It [an art kit] would lack the interaction with the artist," said LM Wood, an associate art and art history professor. "The process is really art for me. All of that is much more the art experience."



MARIJO L. SAULON | Staff Photographer
The Official "Put a Politician in Your Pocket Puppet Kit" is currently on display in Arts West until April 9.

Elon alum makes Broadway debut in 'Newsies'

Meghan Mahoney
Senior Reporter

As he grew up, Adam Kaplan's parents told him, "Go through life with no regrets. Go for your dream."

That's exactly what he did.

Kaplan grew up in an artistic community in Westport, Conn., where, at 6 years old, his dad took him to see "West Side Story" at the local high school. That night, Kaplan fell in love with music theater.

"I got bit with the bug," he said.

Kaplan graduated from Elon University's music theater program in May 2012 and landed a role in the "Newsies" ensemble in January 2013.

The road to Broadway started during the summer of 2012 at the Music Theatre of Wichita, where Kaplan got his equity card. This card makes him a member of the Actor's Equity Association, allowing him to attend the chorus call for "Newsies."

After moving to New York City in September 2012, Kaplan attended three auditions a day on average but still made time to keep in touch with friends at Elon.

Senior Kaila Merrill, a music theater major, still keeps in touch with Kaplan and calls him her mentor.

"He's filled with advice," she said. "He's like my life coach."

Kaplan and Merrill have extensive phone calls during which Merrill said he acts like her manager.

"He wants you to succeed," she said.

The road to Broadway

The "Newsies" audition process began Jan. 11 and less than a week later, Kaplan was cast in the show.

After the initial audition, the casting director called Kaplan in to talk to him about the next step: the dance portion of the audition.

The following morning, Kaplan worked with the show's associate choreographer for three hours. They drilled the dance combinations to make sure he and the three other men left in the auditions had the stamina and could fill the requirements for the role.

That afternoon, Kaplan had a final callback where he performed the material for the role of

Jack Kelly, the part which he would soon be an understudy for.

"People ranged from casting interns to Thomas Shoemaker, the president of Disney Theatricals," Kaplan said. "It was definitely the biggest audition I've ever had. Just to get to that point was enough."

Kaplan's hard work and training paid off that night when his agents called to tell him he had scored the part as the understudy of Jack Kelly.

Rehearsals began Jan. 28, just 17 days after his initial audition. Kaplan will make his debut in the show Feb. 19 at the Nederlander Theatre.

A day in the life

Kaplan now rehearses six days a week. "Newsies," unlike most Broadway shows, is dark on Thursdays, meaning the show does not have a performance.

A typical rehearsal day for Kaplan begins at noon and runs until five. When rehearsals started, Kaplan had vocal practices so he could learn the music for the show. Then he learned what it meant to be the understory for the role, molding himself into a 17-year-old newsboy.

Kaplan said the cast of "Newsies" must share the theater with other performers, so he doesn't always get the chance to practice on that stage.

"But whenever we do get a chance to rehearse in the theater, I mean, that's amazing," Kaplan said.

When rehearsal ends for the day, Kaplan has a few hours to catch his breath before he heads back to the theater, where he watches "Newsies" as an audience member.

"I'm out front taking notes, or I do what's called tracking," Kaplan said. "I'm back stage and just following the guy who I'm replacing, essentially writing down all his backstage choreography."

Since he is a part of the original cast, he was able to grow with the show, Kaplan said. "Newsies" opened in March 2012, so Kaplan is currently the only new performer.

"It's up to me, the stage manager and company management to make sure I'm ready as possible before I go on stage on the 19th," Kaplan said.

A big part of his rehearsal process requires Kaplan to be extra observant of things happening on and off the stage before, during and after the show.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The 2012 Broadway company of "Newsies," a Disney Theatrical production that will feature Elon alumnus Adam Kaplan '12, performs a musical number. The production will start its 2013 performances in New York this week.

"Newsies" is known for its difficult dance maneuvers and won a Tony Award in 2012 for Best Choreography.

"The choreography is intense," Kaplan said. "I didn't have any formal dance training before college, so I think that's a real testament to Elon's training and my professors. I truly couldn't have done it without their help."

Linda Sabo, associate professor in the Department of Performing Arts, said Kaplan never thought of himself as a dancer even though he spent three years in dance for Elon's musical stage.

"They have three majors," Sabo said. "He didn't choose one over the other; he put all his energy in each area."

A well-rounded student

During his senior year, Kaplan had the opportunity to play two lead roles: Berger in "Hair" and Georg in "She Loves Me."

These two roles were Kaplan's favorites during his time at Elon. He said he liked these roles because they were so different from one another. Even the two shows themselves are opposites – "Hair" is a rock musical and "She Loves Me" is more traditional.

Kaplan learned how to be a versatile actor, which is considered an important skill in theatre.

"We hear at school that our job once we leave school is to audition and every now and then you'll book something, but your job is to audition," Kaplan said.

Kaplan said he also learned how to become

a confident auditioner at Elon. This skill helped him succeed when he was going to auditions in New York.

"If you can't audition well, people don't know what you can do," Sabo said. "You have to convince casting agents in 15 minutes you're the one they want."

Kaplan said he is thankful to have had a close-knit community at Elon.

"I certainly wouldn't be where I am without my musical theater class of 2012 because theater is such a tight-knit, close community," Kaplan said. "And to have such supportive friends who really became my family at school is priceless."

Sabo stressed the importance of generosity – something she would like all of her students to understand.

"Care about other people and the kind of jobs they get," she said. "Make a good imprint on the world rather than negative."

According to Sabo, Kaplan was a strong supporter of that.

"It was always fulfilling and fun to work with him," Sabo said. "He had professional work level commitment."

Kaplan's role as Jack Kelly is something he said he felt he was destined to do.

"It's a tour de force role," Kaplan said. "When I saw the show I was like 'God, if I ever get the chance to play this part and sing these songs it would be unreal.'"

As his dream begins to unfold, friends and faculty at Elon continue their support, even from hundreds of miles away.

"This is what he's supposed to be doing," Sabo said.

Review: Music theater program invites campus to 'The Wild Party'

Tony Weaver Jr.
Reporter

The Center for the Arts at Elon University was teeming with activity on Valentine's Day. Parents, students, faculty and other community members came to see the Department of Performing Arts' latest production – Andrew Lippa's "The Wild Party."

As the house music faded and the spotlights came on, a silence swept across the audience. What happened next can only be described as a performance that will get people talking.

"We pushed the envelope really far," said director Lynne Kurdziel-Formato.

Set in the 1920s, "The Wild Party" tells the story of Queenie, a woman involved in an abusive relationship. In order to get revenge on her lover, she plans an extravagant gathering fueled by sex, alcohol and drug abuse.

"The Wild Party" was the collaborative effort of 25 actors, 12 student crew members and nine faculty members from the Department of Performing Arts.

Each member of the cast brought a unique skill set to the show. They consistently delivered fluid dance numbers and enthralling musical pieces. Even the

characters that didn't speak had stories to show the audience throughout the play.

"The talent literally blew my mind," said freshman Drew Shafranek.

The show's technical elements also immersed audience members in the world of the play.

"It was like an actual party happening before our eyes," said freshman Jordan Bollwerk, a music theater major.

Scenes were accented by cohesive lighting changes and the set featured objects that moved seamlessly on and off the stage.

"The show is nonstop," said junior Taylor Aucott, who played an ensemble character. "It's a constant marathon of dancing and singing."

Despite the show's challenging aspects, many cast members, including senior Michael Moore, who played Phil D'Armano, said they enjoyed the work.

"It was hard with very long hours, but I couldn't ask for a better rehearsal process," he said. "And I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to do it with."

Cast members sacrificed weekends and a portion of Fake Break to ensure the show would be ready for opening night.

"The Wild Party" was the latest in a string of risqué productions from the Department of Performing Arts. Others include "Rent,"



The cast of "The Wild Party" performs a scene Feb. 13 in McCrary Theatre. Despite its graphic nature, the play explores issues students may have to deal with in the modern day. RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

"Hair" and, most recently, "Cloud 9."

Kurdziel-Formato said "The Wild Party" could be described as a morality tale that ends with hope. Despite its graphic nature, in its two acts the play depicts issues modern students deal with: promiscuity, rape and homosexuality.

"It's interesting how the struggles they have are the same things we struggle with now," said April Hill, musical director. "It's fascinating how it parallels."

Through the performance, Kurdziel-

Formato said she hoped to convey the message that no matter how far somebody falls, they can still have redemption if they truly desire it.

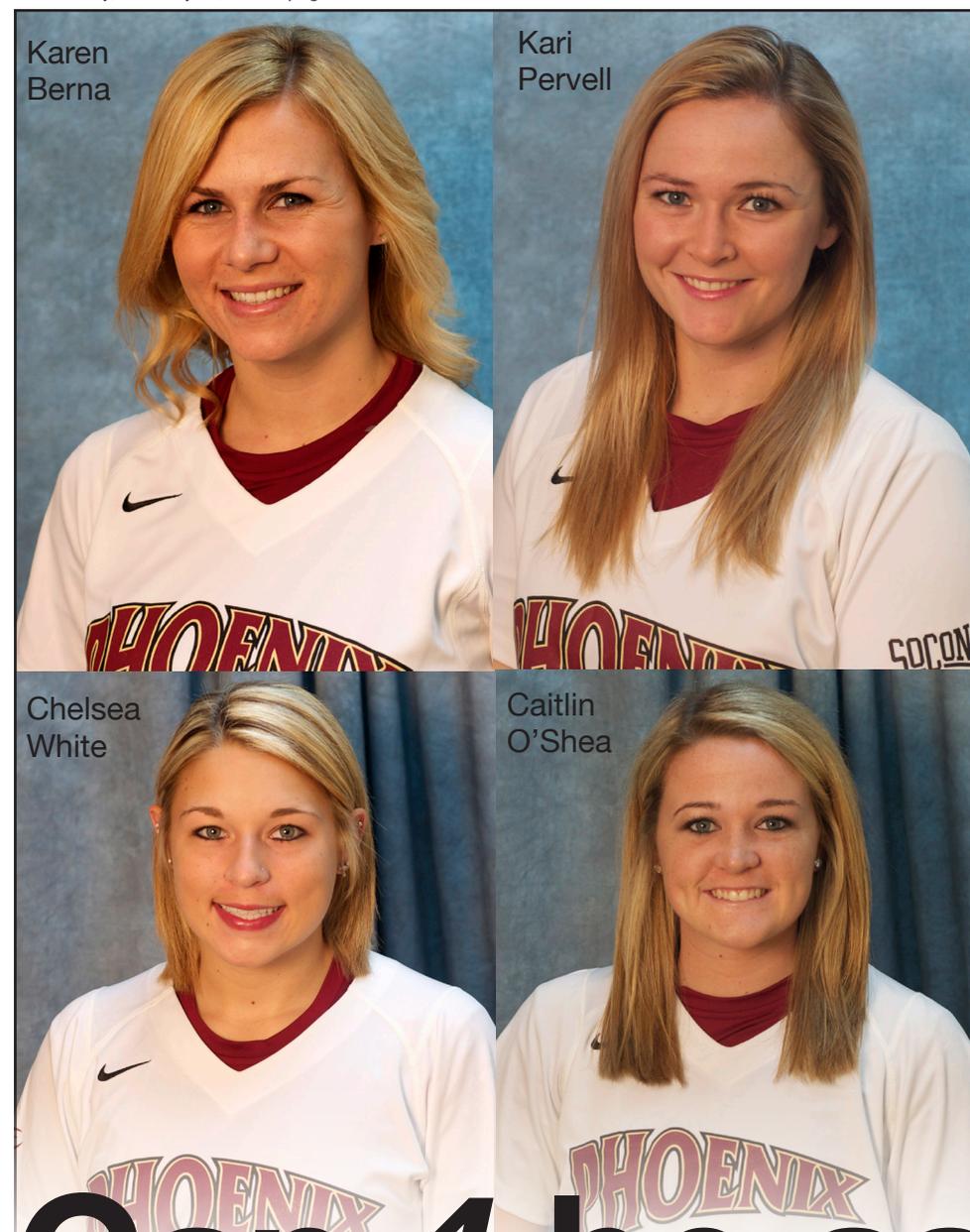
"The Wild Party" was proof Elon's Department of Performing Arts can continue to deliver performances relevant to the lives of students.

Though this play has finished its run, both "August: Osage County" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will come to the stage throughout April.

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS – FEBRUARY/MARCH

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

/	/	/	20	21	22	23	
				Alpha Psi Omega Student-Directed One Acts Black Box Theatre Two different shows, tickets are free			
24	25	26	27	28	1	2	
				Senior Dance Major Thesis Production Black Box Theatre Senior dance majors are putting on an original work, never done before, in the hope of bringing the audience on a journey of self-discovery.			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Senior Dance Major Thesis Production Black Box Theatre						9 DanceWorks Student-Choreographed Work Black Box Theatre	
						10	



Can 4 be as good as 1?

Elon softball looks to fill void left by pitcher O'Shea in the circle

Andrew Wilson
Sports Editor

Twenty-six times Erin O'Shea's name is scattered throughout the Elon University softball program's record books. Throughout the course of four years, O'Shea worked to become the program's all-time leader in career appearances with 129, and she finished tied for first place with '93

graduate Donna Leigh with 90 career starts.

O'Shea started 33 games in 2012, making six more appearances out of the bullpen that added up to 181.1 innings pitched. The 33 starts put her one start shy of tying the program record for most starts in a single season. Two years prior in 2010, Erin started 32 games. In 2011, it was 26 starts.

There's one problem now. The

program's No. 1 starting pitcher for the last three years is a thing of the past after graduating in May 2012, and there's a major void to fill if the Phoenix is to succeed this season.

"Hopefully a year of experience seeing Erin in the bullpens and in live practice seeing what she did has helped lead our younger pitchers to know what they have to work at," said Elon softball coach Kathy Bocock.

Erin's sister Caitlin O'Shea, a sophomore pitcher on the team, said she and the rest of the pitching staff know what they have to do to replace Erin.

"This year, it's going to take all of us stepping up," Caitlin said. "We are coming to the reality that it's going to take all of us to make it through this season and not just on Erin like last year."

Erin worked for the No. 1 spot throughout her career at Elon, and that

wasn't off Bocock's radar.

"Erin was our No. 1 and she proved it," she said. "She was our go-to."

This season, there isn't necessarily a workhorse pitcher. Knowing she doesn't have a first option starter like in years past, Bocock sees it as a mixed bag of fortunes.

"When you have an Erin O'Shea, you know that she's going to come in and step up and do things for you and the defense behind them are very confident," Bocock said. "But the young ladies that we have now and already have here, we feel real good about. They're our future and we feel really good about them."

This year's staff knows there isn't a No. 1 starter that will take the ball two-thirds of the time. Instead, there's a dynamic among the pitchers and they know what they have to do this season.

"This is more of a group effort this year and we have to realize that to be successful," said junior pitcher Karen Berna. "We all realize we have a big role to fill and we are a pretty small pitching staff right now, but we have a really good staff dynamic. Last year, we depended on Erin for a lot of things. This year, we're a mixture of all of us."

During the Red and Black Showcase hosted by the University of Georgia Feb. 8-9 in Athens, Ga., the Phoenix used four different pitchers through the four games. Sophomore Chelsea White started two of the four games while Berna and freshman Kayla Caruso got the other two starts. Caitlin O'Shea made one appearance out of the bullpen.

"We have two sophomores, one junior and a freshman, so we're a young staff," Bocock said. "Early in the season we're trying to see who is going to produce in games and give them the opportunity to see live batters. They all bring different things to the table."

While Erin had the responsibility of mixing it up game in and game out trying to throw opposing batters off, each of this year's hurlers can focus on what they do best. This gives Bocock and her staff options out of the bullpen late in games.

"Some pitch the ball high so they get a lot of fly balls, and some pitch the ball down where they can get a lot of ground balls," Bocock said. "They all are just

different style pitchers and we're trying to get them to work together as a unit."

With options in style, Bocock now has the ability to turn the game over to another pitcher that best suits the situation, even if it's just for a situational matchup late in a game.

"Softball is changing," Bocock said. "It might be that someone comes in and gets a batter out in a certain situation, then someone else comes in."

Either way, the Elon pitching staff looks a lot different this season. Come May, there isn't going to be a pitcher challenging the single season starts record or the innings pitched record. It's going to be a cohesive unit that hopefully stays healthy throughout the season to make a run at the postseason, a place it hasn't been since 2010.

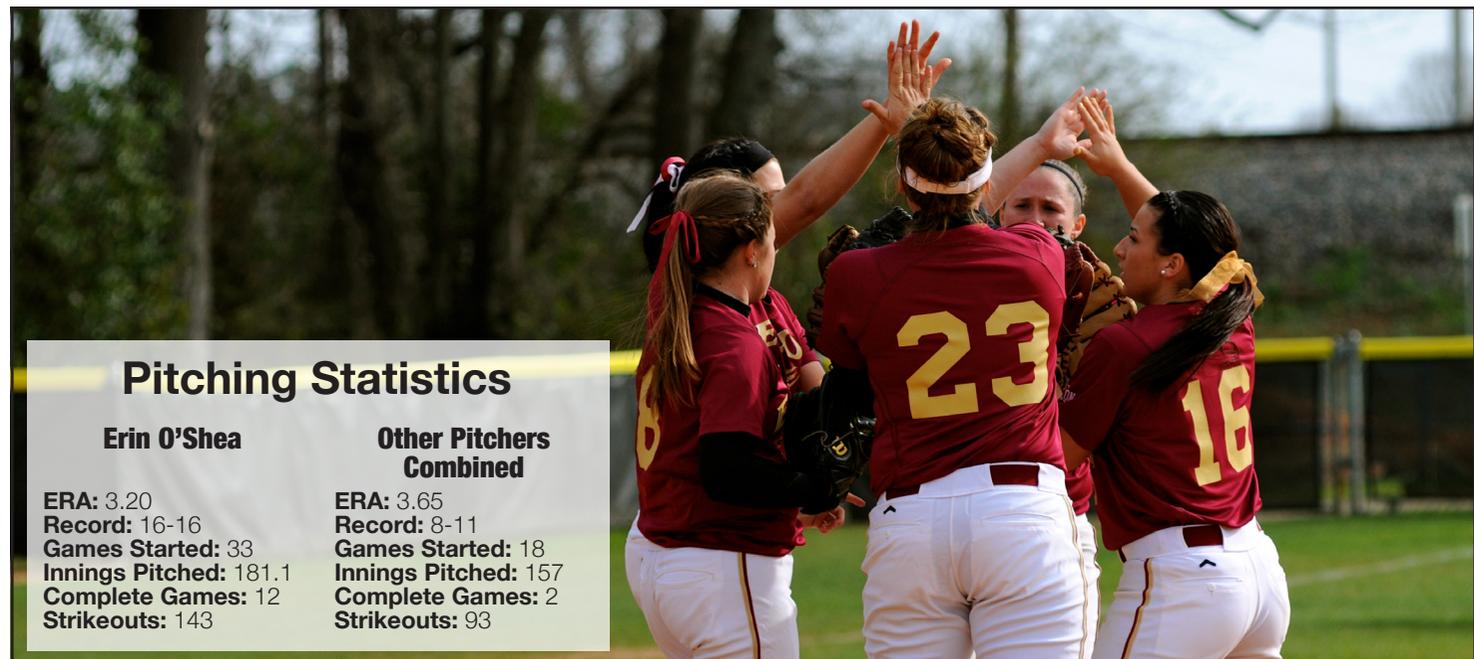
"We're all pretty confident in each other," Caitlin said. "I feel more relaxed knowing that there are four of us, that we're not just coming in as closers for Erin. Now, we're all four working toward the same goal, but with really different styles. There are a lot of games, and we can use this dynamic to our advantage." §

RIGHT: Graduated pitcher Erin O'Shea (8) won 16 of Elon's 24 games during the 2012 softball season.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

BOTTOM: Six Elon pitchers recorded outs in 2012, but Erin O'Shea recorded more than half of those outs by herself on her way to throwing 181.1 innings.

FILE PHOTO BY GLORIA SO



Pitching Statistics

Erin O'Shea

ERA: 3.20
Record: 16-16
Games Started: 33
Innings Pitched: 181.1
Complete Games: 12
Strikeouts: 143

Other Pitchers Combined

ERA: 3.65
Record: 8-11
Games Started: 18
Innings Pitched: 157
Complete Games: 2
Strikeouts: 93



COMING HOME

Softball opens 2013 in a new stadium

Matt Krause
Assistant Sports Editor

Quick! Where is East Field? Chances are good that readers of this article have no idea.

The answer, for those curious, is behind East Gym and the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center near the Academic Pavilion.

That venue was the home of Elon University softball for 35 seasons, dating back beyond the “fastpitch era” of Phoenix softball. But as of 2013, that outdated and hidden field is history. Elon will begin a new era of playing home games at Hunt Softball Park, located across Wil-

liamson Avenue from Latham Park, in close proximity to Rhodes Stadium and Rudd Field.

“Over the last few years, [Elon] had been talking about getting a stadium for the softball program,” said Kathy Bocock, who is beginning her second season as Elon’s head softball coach and first without the interim tag. “It kept moving in the right direction, [the university] had the blueprints, and the Hunt family stepped up and made it happen.”

Home sweet home

Vicky Hunt, an Elon trustee, and her

husband Sam footed the \$1.25 million bill to provide the Phoenix with a top-notch facility. In addition, the BB&T Corporation paid \$500,000 for the completion of the complex. When fully complete, BB&T Field at Hunt Softball Park will feature “brick grandstands with seating for 311 fans and a spacious press box; concourse and concessions areas; two batting cages and a bullpen on the home side; and a batting cage and bullpen on the visitors’ side,” according to the Elon athletic department.

Although the venue is functional for the 2013 season, there is still more work to be done. The Elon athletic department

states, “The second phase of construction for the project will include locker rooms, concession stands, a team lounge, coaching offices and training facilities.”

The program is very excited about the venue.

“People drive past it all the time and say stuff to me,” Bocock said. “I’m like, ‘You gotta come in it. It’s a beautiful place.’”

Senior outfielder Tomeka Watson, a preseason first team All-Southern Conference selection, is full of praise for the facility as well.

“I’m really excited to play on this field for my last season,” said the Jackson, Ga.,

native. “The girls before me have worked really hard, and I’m proud and I’m happy to be out here and represent them at the new stadium.”

Watson was echoed by her fellow preseason second team All-Southern Conference pick, junior outfielder Carleigh Nester.

“It’s just beautiful. I know a lot of people have put time and effort into [Hunt Softball Park] and hopefully we’re going to have some great games this year and show everybody we can play, and suit this nice stadium they’ve given us.”

Added pressures?

Elon’s ability to be successful and play “great games” will be determined by how well the young team gels together and how leaders such as Watson, Nester, and senior Ali Ford carry the team.

For any preseason all-conference player, it can be expected that greater pressure might come along with the honor. However, Watson and Nester insist this is not the case with them.

“It doesn’t add any pressure to me,” Watson said. “It just shows what people expect, and I expect the same thing out of myself. It makes me want to work harder to represent Elon and the SoCon.”

That hard work and leadership is apparent to her head coach, who has seen Watson develop as a player.

“I’ve been very fortunate to work with such a great student-athlete as Tomeka Watson,” Bocock said. “She is a leader. She gets it. She’s trying to guide these young ladies to where I want to see this program go with a lot of pride and respect.”

Bocock added Watson understands the game so deeply that she can also direct the other fielders from her spot in the outfield, essentially serving as an extra coach.

Nester echoed her teammate when asked about the added pressure.

“It doesn’t add any pressure to me. I just go out there and play for myself and my team. I have fun – I love softball. I’m just gonna go out there and do me.”

Bocock credits Nester’s time spent on the bench two seasons ago as a key motivator.

“Carleigh Nester didn’t actually start in her freshman role. She earned that position and once she got the opportunity to step in she didn’t let it go.”

While both players are different, Bocock values their presence together. “Carleigh and Tomeka together, they’re an unbelievable duo. The underclassmen can see how hard they work every day.”

While Ford is busy breaking Southern Conference three-point records on the basketball court, her softball coach, a former college basketball player and coach herself, anxiously awaits the senior infielder’s return to the team.

“There are some people that can play multiple sports, and Ali Ford is one of those,” Bocock said. “She ended up making a big impact last season and we all support her basketball. In sports, you just take that talent and leadership to another program. We’d like to get her tomorrow and take her with us, but as long as [women’s basketball] keeps winning... she’ll join us when she’s done.”

Turning the page

A major key for the Phoenix in 2013 is pitching. Erin O’Shea, who started 33 games in 2012, was lost to graduation. While Bocock recognizes she will be difficult to replace, she believes the future is bright inside the circle.

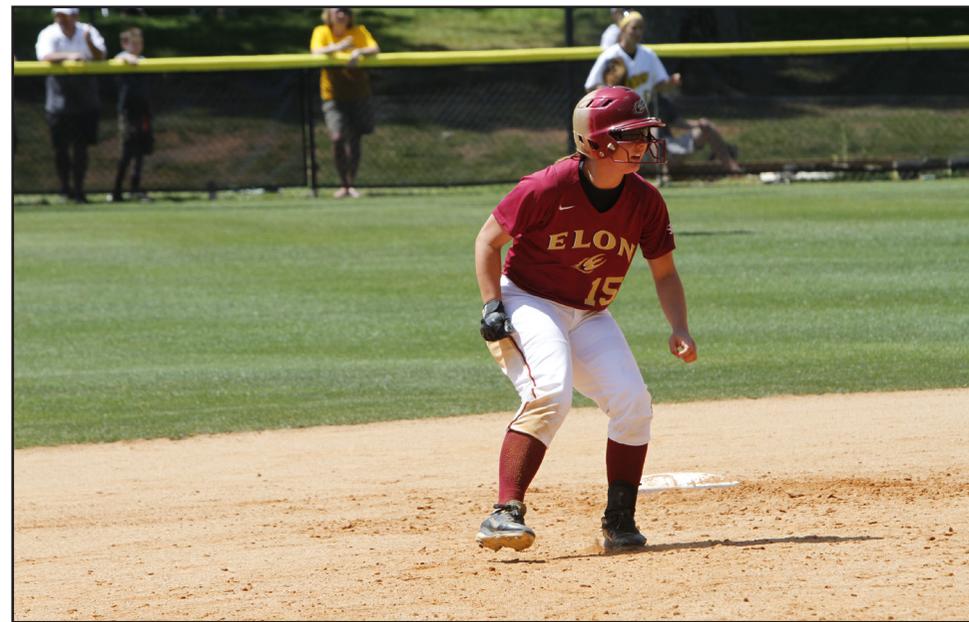
“Erin is going to be very hard to replace,” Bocock said. “Most of our players played with Erin and she was a great leader. We have a freshman pitcher in and transfer pitcher in. Coach [Jess] Kohut is the pitching coach, and we’re very fortunate at Elon to have such a great pitching coach.”

Elon’s new pitchers and leading outfielders will tackle one of the more challenging schedules in school history. Teams such as Ohio State University, the University of Georgia and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are on the docket in 2013 for Elon.

Despite the challenge, Watson and Nester are unfazed.

“We prepare like any other game,” Watson said. “They put on their jersey the same way that we do. We’re going to go out there and work hard.”

Nester stressed practice and routine



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Junior outfielder Carleigh Nester (15) is a preseason second team All-Southern Conference selection for the Phoenix in 2013. Teammate and fellow outfielder Tomeka Watson was selected to the first team All-SoCon.



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO
Elon sophomore outfielder Charyssa Parent (6) appeared in 29 games last season scoring 11 runs.

when discussing her preparation.

“We practice the same way before every game – preparing like we always do and forming a pattern.”

Bocock also weighed in on challenges ahead.

“Being in the SoCon, we have some strong teams [in our conference]. By playing those out of conference teams, we have to work hard, but every game is the same. Softball is softball.”

That philosophy has already paid off

early in the season, as Elon defeated the eighth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs, 5-2, on Feb. 8 in Athens, Ga.

2013 is the beginning of a new era in many ways for Elon softball – the first year without Erin O’Shea, the first year of Kathy Bocock’s tenure without an “interim” tag, and the first year in the new Hunt Softball Park. As the young team familiarizes itself with one another and finds its identity, Elon fans will have a top-notch venue to view it in.

The first official game in the stadium will be played against the Fighting Camels of Campbell University on Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. In 28 previous meetings between the two, Campbell holds a 20-7-1 advantage on the Phoenix. The last time the two teams met was April 14, 2010 when the Phoenix swept Campbell in a double header, 8-6 and 5-2.

Now that Hunt Softball Park is a reality, 2013 promises to be an exciting season of competitive Phoenix softball. §



Finishing touches are complete at BB&T Field at Hunt Softball Park. Made possible by a \$1.25 million donation from Elon trustee Vicky Hunt and her husband Sam along with a \$500,000 donation from The BB&T Corporation, the park opens with a home game at 5:30 on Feb. 20 against the Fighting Camels of Campbell University.

AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Spring 2013 Softball

Schedule



Feb. 22
vs. Saint Peter's



Feb. 23
vs. Temple



Feb. 23
vs. Saint Peter's



Feb. 24
vs. Hampton



Feb. 27
vs. East Carolina



Feb. 28
vs. Virginia Tech



March 6 (DH)
@UNCC



March 9 (DH)
vs. Ga. Southern



March 10
vs. Ga. Southern



March 16 (DH)
@College of Charleston



March 17
@College of Charleston



March 20
@N.C. Central



March 23
@Dartmouth*



March 23
@Iowa State*



March 24
@Florida Atlantic*



March 24
@BCU*

*Florida Atlantic University Tournament

THE LAST WORD

And the Oscar goes to ... my dignity

On a Sunday night in February, I'm on the edge of my seat. The competition is as tough as it can be.



Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

After months of speculation, tonight is the night someone has to win. The clock is nearing 11 p.m. and I know it's about to be over. I lean forward, excitement and nerves running through my veins.

"And the Oscar goes to..."

In that brief moment as the presenter reveals their inability to tear open an envelope, the most exciting Sunday night in February for me isn't the Super Bowl, or even the Grammys. It's the Oscars.

But then the winner is announced

— a movie or person I most likely did not want or think deserved to win. I move on. I just wasted three and a half hours procrastinating on work to see something that has no effect on my life.

So why do I continuously watch the Academy Awards year after year?

This year is extra special for me because I am best friends with America's current sweetheart, Jennifer Lawrence. Growing up in Kentucky, we lived in the same neighborhood, probably swam in the same pool and may have even been within 500 feet of each other.

If that doesn't sound like friendship I don't know what does. I will eagerly be awaiting my name to be thanked for helping Lawrence understand the true meaning of friendship from an early age.

Perhaps it is because I, a 20-year-old journalism student, feel obligated to

watch the Oscars. They are the Holy Grail of cinema. By watching them, I am doing my duty to be an active and knowledgeable member of the School of Communications. At least that's how I justify putting off work for it, anyway.

Maybe I just really want to see some drama. Let's be honest, celebrities are a lot like us, except on steroids. They're more attractive, more talented, more emotional, more everything — which is why there are so many reality shows devoted to pseudo-celebrities.

Who didn't love seeing the eternally wholesome Taylor Swift throwing Adele some shade after her win at the Golden Globes, or the lovable, level-headed man that is Chris Brown remaining seated during Frank Ocean's standing ovation at the Grammys? When Anne Hathaway and Daniel Day-Lewis inevitably win their Oscars, I want to see a bare-knuckled brawl break out

among the losers.

Or is it the celebrities that are above the pomp and circumstance of it all? If you don't know who they are, Joaquin Phoenix and Helena Bonham Carter — both atypical actors — couldn't care less about the awards season or the red carpet. They stand out from the crowd (and in my heart) because they are so aloof and suave.

It's time for a bit of honesty: This article was one excuse after another for me to justify watching the Oscars. At last year's ceremony, I was as excited as the next underground blogger to see Meryl Streep triumph once again, while delivering the classiest acceptance speech in recent memory.

I watch the Academy Awards for exactly what they are: beautiful, high-strung people competing and crying about a small golden statue modeled after a naked man.

ACADEMY Awards

- Django
- Actor
- Cooper
- Statue
- Lincoln
- Jackman
- Hathaway
- Silver Linings
- Actress
- Supporting
- Director
- Award
- Argo
- Lawrence
- Documentary
- Chastain
- Movies
- Best Picture
- Nominees
- Red Carpet

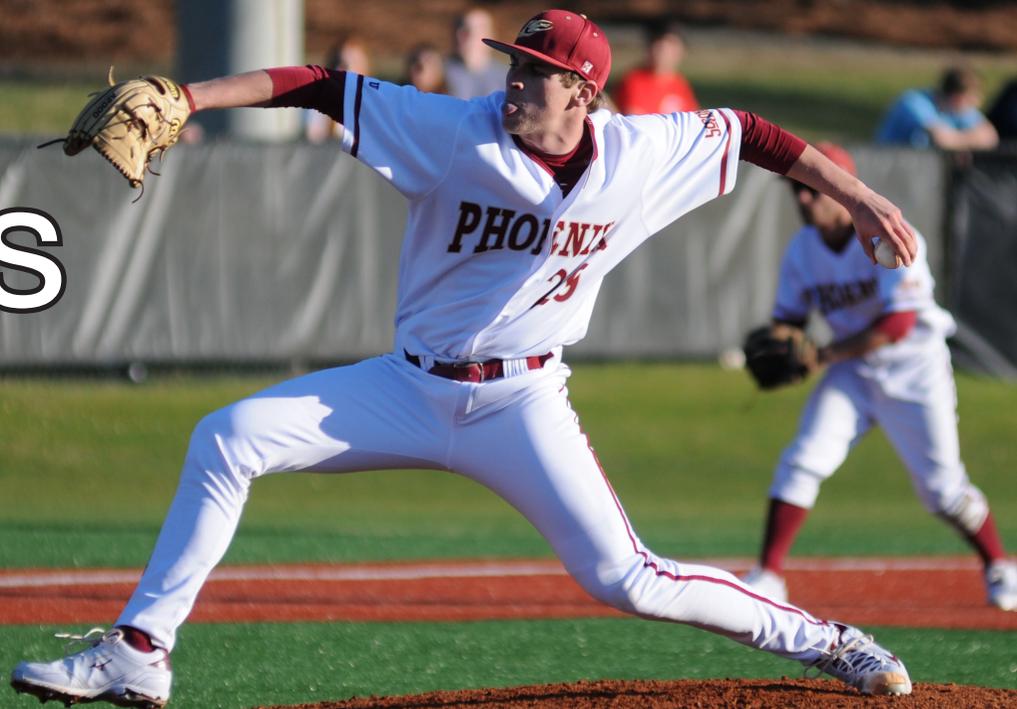
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Top Tweets

- @GJohnston40**
I'm a huge fan of Big Sean, but I'm actually more hype for 3LAU. #ElonSpringShow
- @lekimble**
Wouldn't be an Elon spring show without a horrible b-list rapper and a mash up artist. #pathetic
- @HeadPhoenix**
Thanks for the Valentine App State! #betterthanGodiva
- @OnlyAtElon**
Is this heaven? No it's Freshii
- @cptjhook**
Snow in Charlotte. Snow in Elon. Bright and sunny as you drive in between. Oh okay.



TOP photos



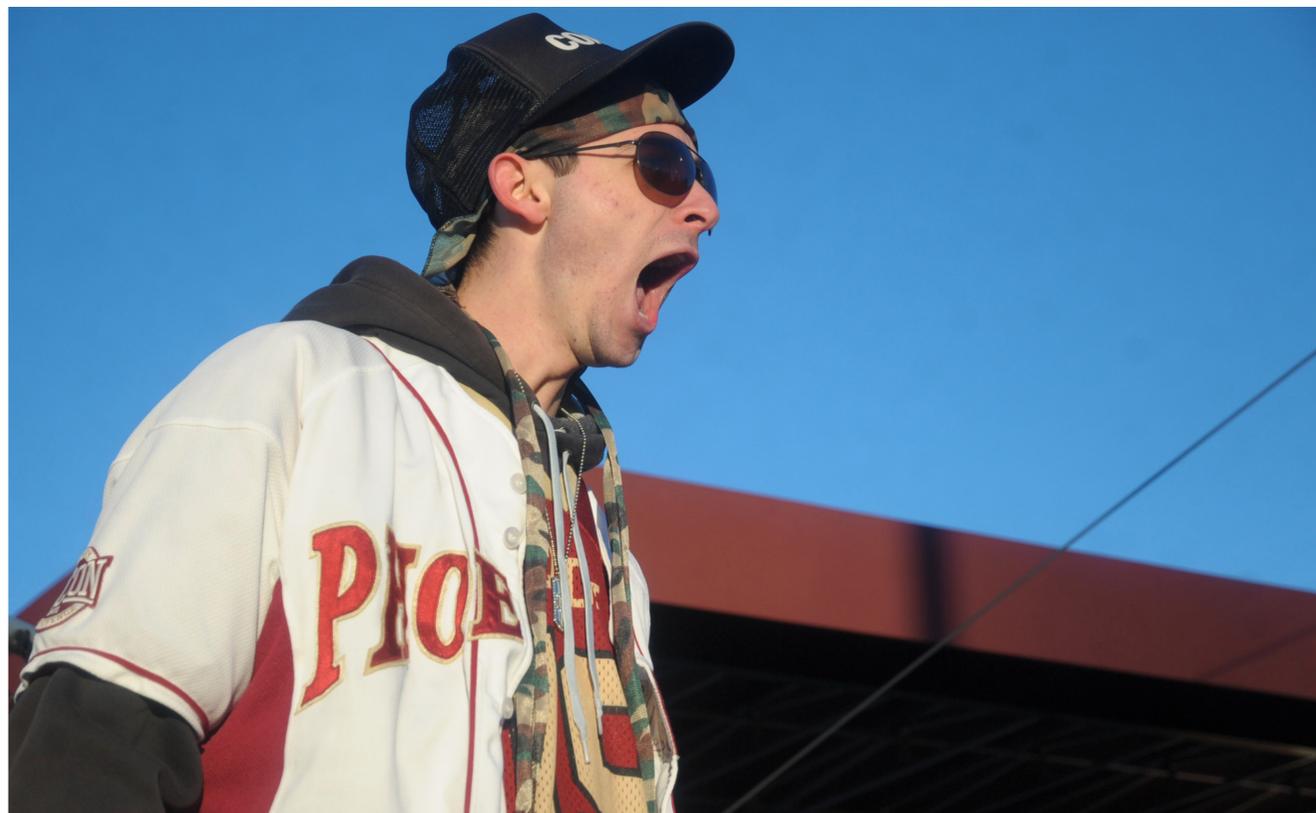
AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Junior Ryan Pennell pitches during the 9th inning against Marist College during Elon's victorious home opener Feb. 15 at Latham Park.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Elon's Jack Isenbarger shoots over Western Carolina's Trey Sumler in the second half of Elon's 80-73 overtime victory Feb. 16.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Senior Steve Roth, also known as the Phoenix baseball "Superfan," heckles players from Western Carolina as they take on Elon during opening weekend.



AL DRAGO | Photo Editor

Students react to the reveal of the Student Union Board Spring Show artists at the basketball game Feb. 16. Big Sean will be headlining with 3LAU opening April 19 in Alumni Gym.



CAROLINE OLNEY | Staff Photographer

Junior Erica Young performs a scene during "The Vagina Monologues" Feb. 14 in Yeager Recital Hall.



SHANA MOSS | Staff Photographer

The cast of "The Wild Party" performs a number Feb. 16 in McCrary Theatre. The musical ran from Feb. 13-17 and featured mature content such as alcohol consumption, drug use and nudity throughout the show.

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