

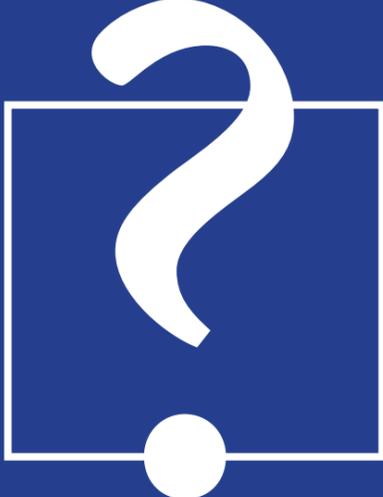
THE PENDULUM

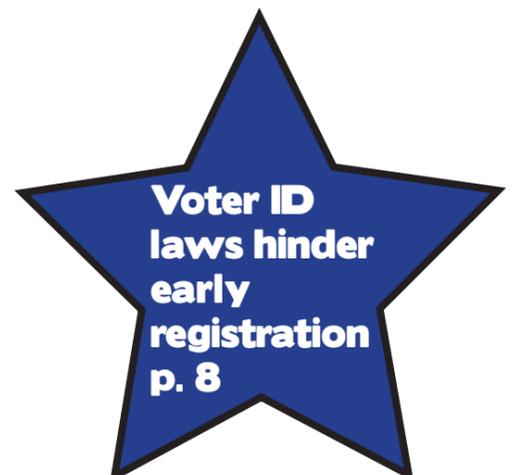
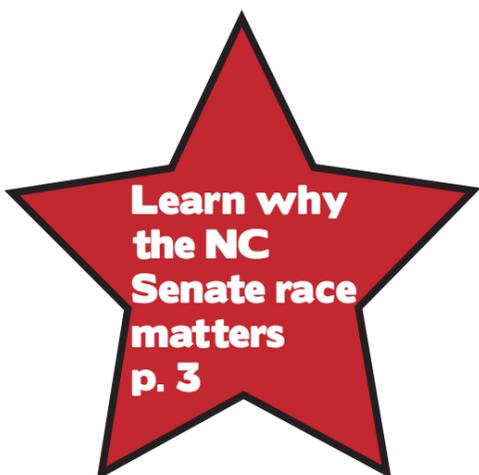
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014 • VOLUME 40 EDITION 25

www.elonpendulum.com



Who will you choose?

<h1>KAY HAGAN</h1> 	<i>vs.</i>	<h1>THOM TILLIS</h1> 
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2014 NORTH CAROLINA SENATE CANDIDATES

COMPILED BY JONATHAN BLACK AND KATY CANADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND MANAGING EDITOR

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

HAGAN:

Sen. Kay Hagan backed the Women's Health Protection Act, which would prohibit regulations that restrict abortions in North Carolina. In 2013, Hagan spoke out against measures taken by the North Carolina Legislature to impose restrictions on facilities that provide legal abortions. She also supported the Affordable Care Act, which covers the cost of

TILLIS:

In 2011, Thom Tillis, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, he supported the state budget which prevented Planned Parenthood from receiving state money. In January of 2011, he told the Raleigh News & Observer that "I am pro-life, I believe all life is sacred." More specifically, he said abortion should be illegal except to save the life of the mother and in cases of rape and incest.

ENVIRONMENT

Hagan supports fracking as long as regulations that take environmental and economic impact into account are imposed. She opposed a fracking bill passed by the North Carolina legislature that made it a crime to reveal the chemicals used in fracking. Hagan also voted against an amendment that would require 60 votes to approve a carbon tax, making it more difficult to apply such a tax in the future.

Tillis has denied the existence of climate change. Tillis has also supported a bill by Gov. Pat McCrory that would lift the prohibition on hydraulic fracking for shale gas in 2015. Since the Duke Energy coal spill in 2013, Tillis has tightened his stance on coal ash, pushing for legislation that regulates Duke Energy's coal ash pits. Environmental groups have lashed out against the bill, claiming it weakens the state's existing groundwater protection laws, allowing Duke Energy to cover pits rather than empty them.

KAY HAGAN DEMOCRAT

THOM TILLIS REPUBLICAN

HEALTH CARE

Hagan voted for the Affordable Care Act and supported a Medicaid expansion that would have increased the number of low-income people benefiting from the health care law. She has been criticized for incorrectly promising North Carolinians they could keep their previous health care plans.

In 2013, Tillis claimed expanding Medicaid would hurt taxpayers, and throughout his campaign he labeled himself an enemy of the Affordable Care Act. As of Oct. 21, his views have changed. Appearing on Time Warner Cable News, Tillis said it might make sense for the state to expand Medicaid coverage once the state has better control of the funding.

EDUCATION

Hagan supported a bill to make college loans more accessible. The bill, attached to Obamacare, would have prohibited colleges from using federal education funding for lobbying ensuring funds are used for student financial aid. Hagan also pushed for incentives and more competitive

An outside Democratic Political Action Committee has accused Tillis of cutting \$500 million in education, but a closer look will show the number is a hypothetical. It's a two-year figure accounting for a "continuation budget," which acts as an illustration, not a budget. Funding has increased about 1 percent since 2009, but North Carolina schools have increased by 44,000 students, or 3 percent.

North Carolina spends record amount on attack ads



More money is being spent in this race between Hagan and Tillis than any Senate race in United State's history. 2,900 anti-Hagan ads have run, making her the eighth-most attacked national candidate in this election. PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

Kaitlin Dunn
Assistant News Editor

As the election season draws to a close, politicians are doing whatever they can to get their names out there and bashing their opponent is as good as any form of that.

U.S. Senate candidates D-N.C. Kay Hagan and R-N.C. Thom Tillis are running brutal ads slamming each other, making the North Carolina Senate race one of the most expensive and vicious in the country right now. But whether attack advertisements are really effective is up in the air.

Scott Windham, Elon University assistant professor of German Scott Windham said he dislikes attack ads because they show a lack of integrity.

"I'm generally disgusted by the way political candidates refuse to engage in what I consider good public discourse and respectful treatment of opposing opinions," Windham said. "Attack ads are a great example of how candidates are not respectful of the other side."

According to Kantar Media/CMAG, which monitors TV signals for political advertising, North Carolina candidates and support groups have run more than 90,500 ads

and spent more than \$54.4 million this election season. North Carolina politicians have spent more than \$16 million more than the second state on the list, Georgia, with politicians spending \$37.8 million.

The Center for Public Integrity reported that more than 10,800 of these ads in just one-week feature content that negatively targets either Hagan or Tillis. This means viewers are subjected to an average of one attack ad for every minute of television time.

The same report revealed that in one week, the Hagan campaign ran more than 4,300 attack ads (including ads attacking Tillis for attacking her), while Tillis has only run 2,900 ads attacking Hagan.

According to the Washington Post, Tillis has been attacked more than any other politician this campaign season while Hagan is the eighth-most-attacked politician. But the majority of the money being spent of the negative ad campaigns does not come directly from the politicians' campaigns, but rather is paid for by independent or nonprofit groups such as Americans for Prosperity, which began running ads against Hagan last October, and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which has spent more than \$17

million targeting Tillis.

Hagan has criticized Tillis on his support for the voter identification law, fight to defund Planned Parenthood and cuts to education, while Tillis has slammed Hagan for openly supporting President Barack Obama, voting with him 96 percent of the time.

Windham is frustrated by the lack of clarity that comes with attack advertisements.

"I wish that candidates would outline what they stand for in more detail instead of using empty words," Windham said. "In the last election people were calling Obama a socialist, and regardless of if you support him or not,

the fact is that he is not a socialist. Anyone who says that he is clearly has no idea what the word means."

Like Windham, Junior Anna Patterson said she is also disgusted by candidates who run ads against their opponents and said she will be taking this into consideration when she casts her vote.

"We need to elect people who will work together to find common ground, not attack each other and create greater divides in our already polarized system," Patterson said. "I would be less likely to vote for someone who runs an attack ad."



More than 4,300 ads have run against Tillis in this campaign, making him the most targeted candidate this cycle. PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

NC race important on national front

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The 2014 North Carolina Senate campaign is set to be the most expensive race in U.S. history. Throughout the polling, the margin of victory between incumbent Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., and her opponent, Speaker Thom Tillis, has remained small. In an election where party control of the U.S. Senate hangs in the balance, North Carolina is one of the most important races in the country. In the political world, the closer races tend to be the most expensive ones.

“If either side wants to gain or retain control of the Senate, they need to look at North Carolina,” said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science at Elon University and assistant director of the Elon Poll.

The importance of North Carolina in the midterm election is not determined by Hagan or Tillis themselves or any kind of political influence the state carries. Husser speculated that Republicans have a “decent chance” of winning a majority, but said the number of Senate seats that could go either way is only eight.

“But that means there’s not much of a margin of error,” he said.

Husser also added that the North Carolina election is not being looked at closely because Hagan has held a small, consistent lead — a

lead Husser said is over-estimated.

North Carolina politics

North Carolina is considered a toss-up state in this election in part due to its reputation as a “purple” state, less conservative than its neighbors in the South. But after electing the first Republican controlled legislature and governor for the first time since Reconstruction, this descriptor has been called into question.

“It’s still a swing state if you define it as having a 10-point gap,” Husser said. “That said, North Carolina is more like a purple state with a reddish tint. But that can change over time, and it probably will.”

Part of what has made North Carolina a more Republican-friendly state in recent elections is opposition to the president’s administration. In effect, as Husser put it, Pres. Obama made North Carolina a swing state.

“You could speculate that if the climate toward Obama wasn’t so negative, the legislation out of the General Assembly wouldn’t be so reactionary,” he said.

North Carolina’s diverse political affiliates play a part in keeping the midterm race competitive, as the left-leaning Moral Monday demonstrations brought state-wide and national attention to the actions of the Republican state legislature.

“Hagan’s doing so well because of a foundation set up by Moral Monday,” Husser said.

By contrast, Husser said Tillis is being hurt by his link to the General Assembly and his day job as Speaker of the House prevents him from doing more in-person campaigning.

Stakes in election

If Tillis wins the election, the possibility of the Republican Party controlling the U.S. Senate, and therefore both houses in the Capitol, will be more likely. But if Republicans win a majority, it’s unlikely that much conservative legislation will make it through the two chambers, since Obama still have veto power.

“Anyone telling you that if Republicans win the Senate, Obamacare will be repealed is telling you misguided information,” Husser said.

But, what control of the Senate would change, would be the ability for Republicans to appoint and confirm federal judges, for which there are many vacancies nationwide due to blockades by the Senate’s Republican minority.

And while campaigning is continuing in North Carolina, in many ways, the election has already started, as early voting is open from Oct. 23 to Nov. 1.

“In 2012, more votes were cast in early voting than on Election Day,” Husser said.

Voting at Elon

Voter turnout among college-aged people is particularly low, but the presidents of Elon’s two largest political organizations — College Democrats and College Republicans — urged students to vote.

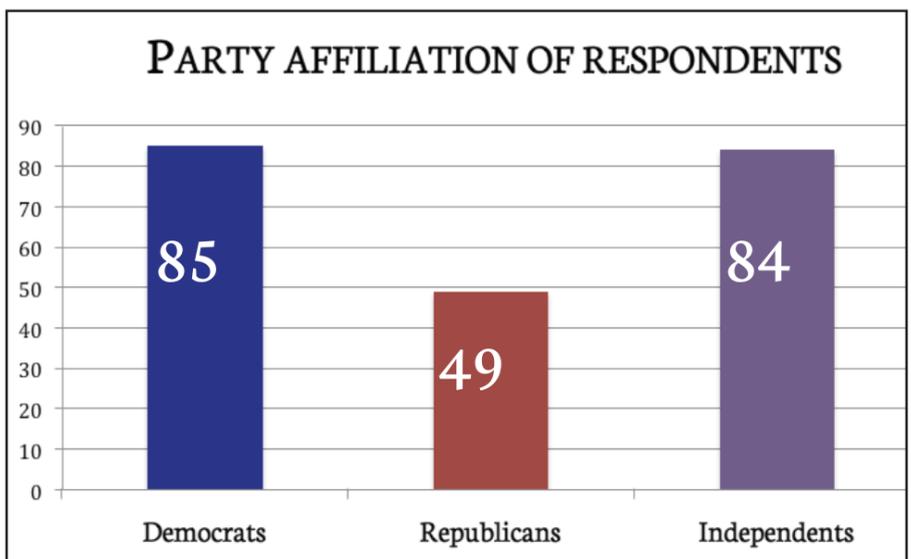
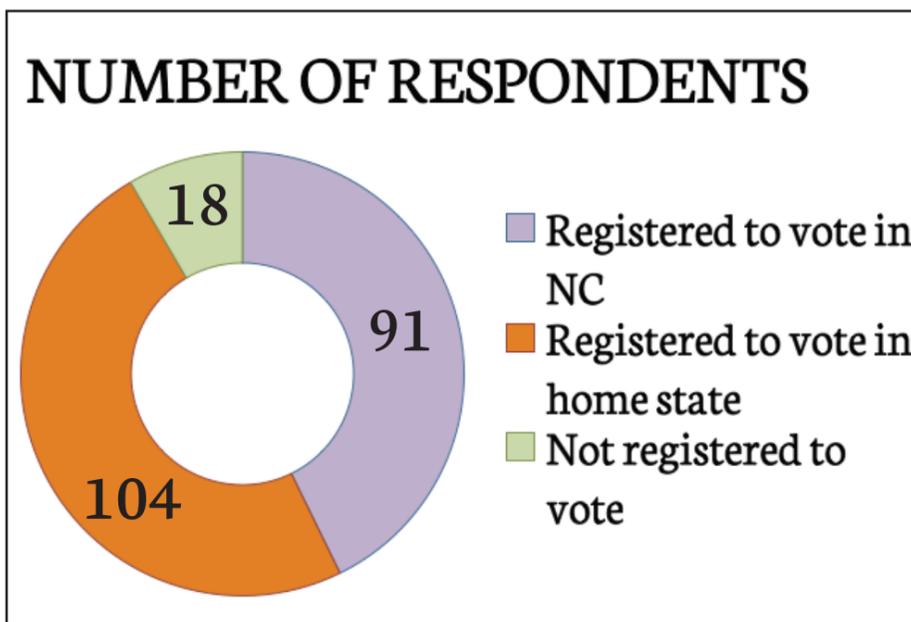
Julia Mueller, president of College Republicans, said everyone should vote and research the issues close to them.

“If ObamaCare is a concern, consider that Senator Hagan was the deciding vote for the act and that raised healthcare costs for students in North Carolina,” Mueller said. “Speaker Tillis wants to fully repeal and defund ObamaCare. By repealing this, costs can be reduced by allowing the private sector to offer healthcare.”

Bobby King, president of College Democrats, said the Senate election will be important not just because it decides who will represent North Carolina, but because it will show how North Carolinians feel about the state’s General Assembly.

“Speaker Tillis’ tenure was marked with the policies that proved far from political center, passing one of the most restrictive Voter ID laws in the nation, and cutting \$500 million from public education,” King said. “In my opinion as a citizen, Senator Hagan is a political leader willing to compromise for the benefit of average North Carolinians.”

Pendulum survey: Voter breakdown



3 Most Important Issues (by party affiliation)

Democrats

- WOMEN’S RIGHTS 49 votes
- SAME SEX RIGHTS 45 votes
- EDUCATION 39 votes

Republicans

- HEALTHCARE 31 votes
- EDUCATION 29 votes
- WAR ON TERROR 23 votes

Independents

- EDUCATION 52 votes
- WOMEN’S RIGHTS 36 votes
- HEALTHCARE 36 votes

GRAPHICS BY KRISTEN DEMARIA | Design Chief

On the job with City of Burlington council members



City Councilman Celso Faucette served on the Burlington City Council for the past six years. He lived in Burlington all his life and wanted to dedicate himself to the city.

Brett Gubitosi
Senior Reporter

Here's a hard job: make decisions that impact each community member, and try to assess the best possible choices for the entire community. Burlington City Council members are tasked with just that every day and work to make their decisions beneficial.

Celso Faucette has been a council member for the past six years. He previously worked at LabCorps for 35 years, starting in 1969 before retiring in 2005. When he started at LabCorps, he said there were only 10 to 12 employees. Faucette has lived in Burlington his entire life, and said he wanted to dedicate his time serving the city.

"I thought I needed to bring something to the table to make the city better," he said. "Why live in a community when you're not

doing anything to help?"

After retiring from LabCorps, Faucette worked in various Burlington City council committees, such as the Traffic Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission. He said working with budgets, helping clients and customer service experience in these positions prepared him for his government work as a council member.

Half of his time working is spent preparing for City Hall meetings. This entails researching topics and assessing community concerns. He said the rest of his job time involves meeting with various committees in the City of Burlington. Other times he attends community events, sometimes cutting ceremonial ribbons to commemorate new buildings or locations.

Like Faucette, Burlington Council member Bob Ward takes care in preparing for council meetings. He also knows the importance of reliably serving the commu-

nity.

"From day to day, it is important to be available to talk with citizens when they call about their concerns," he said.

Before being elected to the council, Ward served as city attorney for 39 years. In this position, he worked closely with the city council. When he became a council member three years ago, he knew his past experiences would help him succeed.

"As part of my duties [as city attorney] I prepared ordinances and helped develop policies for the City of Burlington," he said. "I believe this service provided me an ideal opportunity to learn about serving on the City Council."

In addition to working as city attorney and as a Burlington city council member, Ward was an adjunct professor teaching state and local government law and administrative law at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The University of

North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina State University and North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Another key city council member is Harold Owen, the city manager. He has held this position for 12 years. Prior to this job, he was the human resources director for Burlington's Recreation and Parks Department.

His job as city manager is to advise city operations and council policies. He said he is not a politician, but like council members, he works to serve the needs of the public. But he said the money to help others is not always there.

"People have a number of services, and having the finances to address these is tough," he said.

Faucette and Ward said the council is currently working on a few projects. For example, they are in the process of arranging a Burlington public transportation system. Although Faucette is happy with its progress, he said some additional changes can improve Burlington.

"We need to get more industry and jobs in Burlington," he said. "That is our no. 1 priority."

He also said building a civic center, which are usually publically funded, in Burlington would be ideal. These are usually publically funded. The City of Graham has a civic center, and according to The City of Graham website, various organizations have hosted events there, such as the Graham Rotary Club, Graham Optimist Club and the Graham Lions Club, among others. Faucette believes building one in Burlington would benefit the community.

Owen believes that greater citizen age diversity will improve Burlington.

"I'd like to see more of our young people in the community," he said. "We need really bright and innovative minds to live here."

All three men said they enjoy working for Burlington despite the jobs' pressures.

"The greatest challenge is clearly understanding and being prepared to address issues that are presented to the City Council and to make those decisions that will best serve the interests of the citizens of Burlington," said Ward.

"I truly want to work with the public," said Owen.

"I enjoy meeting new people and finding out what their concerns are," said Faucette. "You can't please all the people all the time, but I've done a very good job."

PARODY TWITTER ACCOUNTS LIGHTEN ELECTION MOOD

Courtney Campbell
Senior Reporter

Politics can be heavy and, let's face it, a little bit boring at times. Luckily, there are plenty of parody Twitter accounts to keep you informed about the upcoming elections with a chuckle or two along the way.

@PatMcCrony – Keeping an eye on North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, "Pat McCrory" is getting into the upcoming elections, hashtagging #ncpol and #ncgov. Through irony and satire, he links to legitimate articles and comments on McCrory's bills and spending in North Carolina, including his own personal purchases.

@GovBevPerdue – The fake Twitter account of former North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue is still active, often relating politics to what is really important: Bojangles and Cook-Out Restaurant. Lately, she has focused mainly on the senate debates, rooting for her "gurlfriend" Kay Hagan and live-tweeting her debate criticisms.

@ElevatorQueen – This account takes up the persona of Cherie Berry, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor, whose picture appears on the Certificate of Operation on every elevator in North Carolina, informally deeming her the "Elevator Lady." It pokes fun at inspections, rides at the state fair, and, of course, her beloved elevators.

@SrWHOofficial – Delving deep into the America's most famous white house, @SrWHOofficial touches upon the goings-on within the White House. There is speculation that it is written by a White House staffer. The account's goofy tweets follow political observations from gun control to the president's dog.

@GOPTeens – This account mocks how older politicians try to appeal to young people. Using satire, each tweet is loaded with hashtags and makes purposefully lame pop culture references. #Teens: #follow this #account to be #informed. #Humor #LOL.

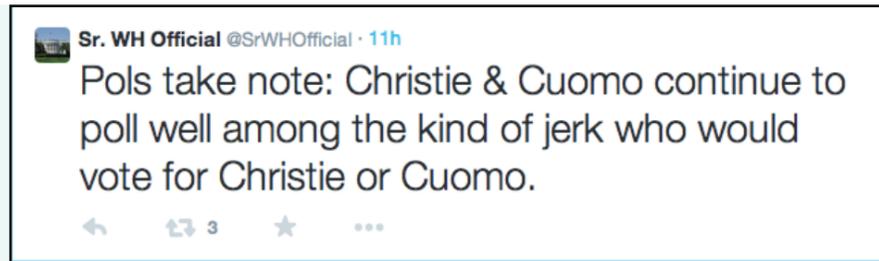


PHOTO COURTESY OF twitter.com/SrWHOofficial



PHOTO COURTESY OF twitter.com/SrWHOofficial

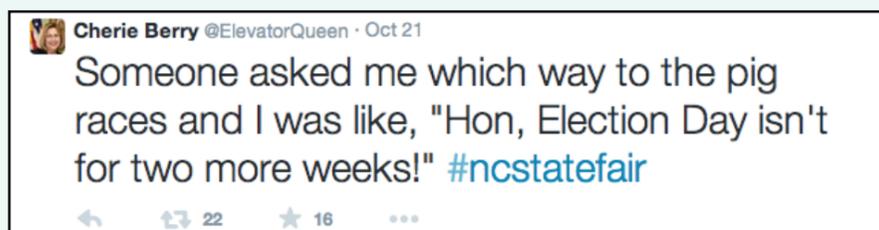


PHOTO COURTESY OF twitter.com/SrWHOofficial

Coble closes the curtain

Representative Howard Coble to retire after 30 years

Caroline Fernandez
Features Editor

For 10,891 days Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC) has represented North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives. After 47 years of service in local, state and national government — 30 of those years as a U.S. Congressman for the state's sixth congressional district — Coble announced his intent to retire at the end of his term.

Coble has seen Greensboro evolve from a sleepy town with furniture factories, textile mills and tobacco fields into the third-larg-

est city in North Carolina with suburbs, an increased population and a downtown.

Born in 1931 in a Guilford County's rural agricultural community, Coble grew and developed with the city. While he has seen many changes in his hometown, some things have remained constant—he grew up with the Alamance Church Community, the same church he attends today, more than 80 years later.

Coble received undergraduate credits from Appalachian State University and Guilford College, later serving in the Coast Guard and returning to earn a degree from

Guilford. After pursuing his law degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Coble held various positions in the state legislature before running for the House of Representatives, such as Assistant U.S. Attorney and Secretary for the Deputy of Revenue.

Coble said that an unbalanced voting ballot, with far more Democratic than Republican candidates, motivated him to run for the state legislature in 1968.

"I feel that in a republic where there are two major parties, as is the case here, I think the constituents are better served if you have both parties nipping at each others heels, fighting, debating the issues," Coble said. "There's nothing wrong with that."

While a congressman for the U.S. House of Representatives, Coble ran and was elected 15 times. He continued to run his campaigns to create a more balanced voting ballot.

As a congressman, Coble chaired U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, which worked with patents, trademarks and copyrights. He felt his presence on the committee played an important role for the future of inventors.

"Intellectual properties provide such a favorable role in their operation. I think that many people benefit as a result thereof without knowing it," Coble said. "Inventors need protection, and that protection is provided for them by statute. I am proud of our work there."

Looking back on his career, Coble said his main regret was his vote to dispatch troops to Iraq.

"I don't think we had a solid post-entry strategy," Coble said. "I think we went in and we went out too quickly."

He announced that he would not be accepting his congressional pension of about \$2 million, and he said he hopes this will be his legacy.

"[Refusing my pension] will be costly,

but my point is that most taxpayers pay my salary," Coble said. "I don't think they should also have to pay my congressional pension."

The idea of taxpayers also paying for a congressman's pension is an important matter to Coble, so much so that he introduced a bill that extends the service time for a member to be eligible for a pension from five years to 12 years. The bill hasn't had any support or backing. Coble said when he introduced the bill last session it was similarly ignored, and no one wanted to embrace the issue.

Soon, though, Coble will not be involved in congressional sessions and bills. With his retirement to begin after a new official is elected in November, Coble looks at his future and sees a lot of free time.

"Someone recently said to me, 'For 30 years you've had no spare time. Soon you'll be in a position where you'll have nothing but spare time, you better think about it.' I said, 'I'll start thinking about it tomorrow but as the old adage goes, tomorrow never comes.'"



Rep. Howard Coble has served as U.S. congressman for N.C.'s sixth congressional district for thirty years.

ALL ABOUT REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD COBLE

POSITION
Congressman for North Carolina since 1985

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?
Retiring from office after 30 years as a U.S. representative for North Carolina's sixth congressional district.

NOTABLE CAREER MOMENTS
Received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Elon University

Refused his congressional pension of \$2 million and introduced a bill extending the eligibility time of congressmen to receive their pension from 5 years to 12 years

Students cast ballots with TurboVote

Kim Honiball
Senior Reporter

Members of Alamance County and on-campus organizations have been asking students at every street corner and every bus stop if they are registered to vote as regional elections approach.

More often than not, people try to avoid the organization handing out information or asking questions on the side of the street. Students all over Elon University's campus have had to ask themselves whether they would fight or flee the clipboards.

Some students complain. Some lie to avoid a conversation. Some, though, meet the clipboards head-on.

"I think it's good to encourage civic engagement," said sophomore Emily Roper.

Some students acknowledge the importance but think people asking pedestrians to vote should go about it in a different way.

"I understand why they do it," said junior Seth Stroud. "I just don't think it's effective. Most people that approach you — no matter how much they care about

the issue — just get ignored."

People ranging from county citizens, Town of Elon residents and Elon students are actively working toward getting others to vote.

The National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement sponsored host tables at College Coffee and in Moseley Student Center to promote voter registration.

"Voting is everything," said senior and National Campaign ambassador Julie Phillips. "Many Americans take voting for granted, but it wasn't always the way the world worked. Now we have the amazing opportunity to each decide what we want from our leaders."

Phillips said because of their efforts, many more people have registered to vote.

"I think the personal touch of asking people to vote is important," she said.

Phillips and other ambassadors encouraged students who were interested in registering to use TurboVote, an online tool that partners with more than 100 college campuses to inform students about upcoming elections and provide them with materials to complete the vot-

ing process.

"Elon is at the cutting edge of the best practices for using the tool," said Sam Novey, Director of Partnerships at TurboVote.

More than 1,000 Elon students have signed up for TurboVote — with a spike in sign-ups in the last couple of weeks for voter registration, Novey said.

"Elon is always making it into the 'Top 50' or 'Top 30' lists [that TurboVote puts out]," Novey said. "It is one of the most successful voter promoters in the country."

Despite students' lack of interest in talking to people on the street, the numbers don't lie. These measures are working and students are engaged to vote in their community.

Although TurboVote was used by a large number of registered voters for Elon's campus, Novey wants to remind students, "Everyone still needs to show up to vote."

"It doesn't matter who you vote for, what party you register with or if you decide to register with a party at all," Phillips said. "What matters is that you vote."

How does TurboVote work?

- 1 SIGN UP FOR TURBOVOTE
- 2 Register to vote by mail and receive reminders about election dates
- 3 TurboVote will mail you a filled out registration form or vote by mail application
- 4 TurboVote will remind you to mail in your forms and ballots and where to vote
- 5 You vote in federal, city, state, primary, general and school board elections



CANDIDATE OVERVIEW



US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 04

Our reporters and editors asked candidates a series of questions. Their answers may have been edited for length but not content. All photos were submitted.

What is the most important issue to you?

PAUL WRIGHT (REP.)

One of the issues that is the most im-
perative to the future of our country is employment.



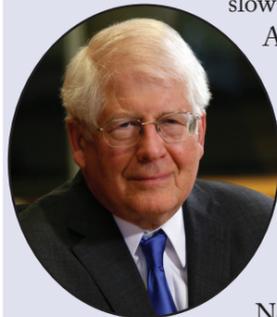
I believe that the best

way to create jobs is to reduce the tax burden felt by small businesses and our taxpayers.

With nearly two-thirds of all jobs in the United States coming from small businesses, we must allow them the opportunity to prosper without the added regulation of the federal government.

DAVID PRICE (DEM.)

[The most important thing] is continue supporting our economic recovery, which has been far too slow and uneven.



Although the private sector has seen over 50 straight months of job growth, too many North Carolinians remain unemployed or underemployed.

We cannot rest until every American worker who wants a steady job can find one and every American employer who needs a qualified worker can hire one. Unfortunately, Americans are now confronted with two starkly competing visions of the

government's role in the economy.

The vision championed by congressional Republicans is a top-down approach that gives tax breaks to the wealthy and corporations and allows special interests to play by their own rules, believing that prosperity will somehow "trickle down" to all Americans.

Our experience as a country teaches us that this vision has failed to deliver: the stock market regularly reaches record highs, yet the middle class and those who aspire to it struggle to find jobs that pay a livable wage. I believe that government must work instead to build our economy from the middle class outward.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 06

College students are graduating today with more debt than ever before. Where do you think the blame lies, and how can we correct this problem?

LAURA FJELD (DEM.)

I would be interested in reviewing and supporting efforts now to review the opportunity for students to refinance debt.



It is a good way to address the debt load that many individuals

are coming out of higher education with.

I believe that we have to be sure that students are gaining access to education at whatever level they need to sustain themselves and work in 21st century economy.

We want quality education at an affordable price.

MARK WALKER (REP.)

I believe that every citizen in this nation should have the opportunity at a world-class education.



But, with student loan debt now exceeding credit card debt, we must evaluate

the way students have to pay for this education. Right now more than 50 percent of recent college graduates are either unemployed or underemployed. Our students should be educated on the many factors that can affect their lives after graduation, including job opportunities and payment rates on their loans.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 13

BRENDA CLEARY (DEM.)

The first thing is I've been in North Carolina for about 20 years, and almost all of those 20 years I've been in David Price's district — District 4. We've become friends, and I think he's one of the best public servants that I've ever known. After the 2010 redistricting, I found myself in district 13, but I talked to David in Washington early in 2013, and he stressed that the democrats would need a strong, credible candidate to step up, who was not risk-averse, because this is not a district that is set up for a democrat to win.



I started thinking about it, and while I never served in Congress, I was a director in the AARP Public Policy Institute for a few years and worked with experts from all

careers on policy issues related to the community, including the economy, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. I felt like that really shored up not having served in a high level public office. That experience in Washington will enable me as a freshman Congresswoman to hit the ground running.

I still have a steep learning curve, but I know the good, bad and ugly of Washington. My PhD and research background allowed me to do my homework on everything that comes before Congress. I will judge every bill that comes before Congress on its merit, not on some ideology. But the moment when I said, "Yeah, I'm going to do this," was when I thought about the experience I could bring to the table. On Nov. 2 of 2013, when my first grandbaby was born, that's when I decided to do it. I feel like our state and region has a lot to do to improve and not a lot is getting done.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

GEORGE HOLDING (REP.)

Editor's note: The Pendulum reached out to George Holding and his office on numerous occasions. At press time, Holding had yet to respond. The information that follows is a brief bio with information from his official Facebook page.



George Holding grew up in Raleigh and attended Wake Forest University.

He has since practiced law and served on the staff of U.S. Senator Jesse Helms in Washington, D.C.

In 2006, President George Bush appointed him to the position of U.S. Attorney.

While in office he convicted a former agricultural commissioner, a former congressman, a state judge, a state senator, a state representative and the speaker of the North Carolina State House of Representatives for public corruption.

After resigning, Holding was encouraged to run for office by former Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court Beverly Lake, former House Republican Majority Leader Leo Daughtry and Donnie Harrison, Wake County sheriff.

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 63

STEPHEN ROSS (REP.)

I really have a past history that I can fall back on when I was mayor here in Burlington. I went to work on a regional approach trying to recruit industry here. Recruiting industry to Alamance County, you have to sell a company on why they should locate here, and there are a lot of parts to that — government infrastructure, quality of life and many other things. Most people think it's just incentives, and it's not. We put a lot of money into our airport here in hopes that we could incentivize a company to come here. Before we finished the pavement, we were able to land Honda Aero, which is



a company that builds jet engines for the Honda jets. We were able to craft an incentive policy, and Burlington had no incentive policy. We were able to grant incentives to LabCorp to expand their lab next to Elon. That lab is the largest diagnostic testing lab in the world. We did other things to beef up infrastructure around the airport so that LabCorp could expand, because all their samples are flown in from all over the place. We did the zoning to create a business environment and set aside certain amounts of money for infrastructure and were able to land some distribution centers — Sheetz, Walmart, Sam's Club. It's all just a matter of having an ear open and being out there, and when you come upon these opportunities, being able to be flexible and move fast.

HOW WILL YOU HELP BRING JOBS TO THE AREA AND STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY?

IAN BALTUTIS (DEM.)

When we look at what's going on in Alamance, we also need to look around us more. When people are looking for a place to live and work, they look for low taxes, suitable



building sites, somewhere where workers will live a long time. They need neighborhood and city that can support that.

Investing in education is really investing in the future and allowing Alamance to compete with surrounding areas.

Law changes affect youth voting

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

The life of a North Carolinian under the age of 30 is very different from the life of a North Carolinian above the age of 30. Young people have irregular schedules because of school. Young people have less money. Young people are less likely to have a driver's license, let alone a car.

With a daily routine different from older generations, changes to that routine can result in significant delay or the cancellation of certain parts of a young person's schedule.

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a series of new voting laws restricting the time and place of voting, as well as adding a requirement for photo identification at the polls.

Democrats and other liberal-leaning advocacy groups in North Carolina have criticized the law changes, while Republicans, who controlled the General Assembly when the law changes were passed, said the changes will increase confidence in the voting system and curb voter fraud.

"I think the changes are necessary because it puts limits on voting to ensure voters are properly identified and people don't vote twice, which is part of our electoral system," said Thomas Friend, a junior at Elon University and a member of College Republicans.

Looking at the law, there are several aspects related to young people, like voter ID requirements and changes to precinct times. But whether these changes will impact the voting routine of youths is yet to be seen.

"I don't like to call it voter ID. I like to call it voter suppression," said John Easterling, president of the North Carolina Association for Teen Democrats.

Easterling is 17 and goes to Scotland High School in Laurinburg. He said requiring specific forms of identification to be able to vote make it harder for certain segments of the population to vote.

"Even though they say it's only \$13 for an ID, sometimes it's pretty hard for people my age to scrape together \$13," he said.

If someone does not have a birth certificate to present to the DMV, that price

can rise even more. As of 2014, in North Carolina, the cost to obtain a birth certificate is \$24, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

According to a study by the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute, the percentage of young people with a driver's license has declined since the 1980s. Sixty percent of 18 year olds had a license in 2010 as opposed to 80 percent in 1983. For people aged 20 to 24, the percentage dropped from 92 percent to 81 percent in the same time frame.

In the University of Michigan study, 32 percent of respondents who didn't have a driver's license said "owning and maintaining a vehicle was too expensive."

Friend, who is from Charlotte, disagreed with Easterling's concerns that voter ID law would lead to a significant drop in turnout.

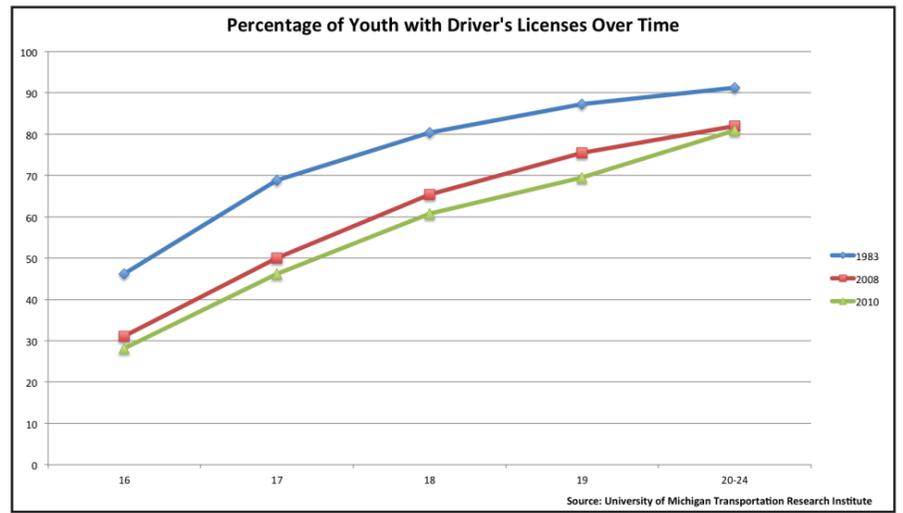
"Anyone who cares enough to vote will make the effort to get some sort of voter identification," Friend said. "You have to jump through a few hoops, but it's very easy to get an identification card."

This one of the main concerns raised by opponents of North Carolina's voter ID law. Those least likely to have a driver's license — low-income people, African-Americans, young people — are more likely to vote for a Democratic candidate than a Republican one.

In the 2012 election, 49 percent of voters making less than \$50,000 a year voted for Democrat Walter Dalton for governor instead of Republican Pat McCrory while 39 percent of voters making more than \$50,000 voted the same way. Eighty-five percent of African-Americans voted for Walter Dalton as opposed to 29 percent of white voters.

When looking at young people specifically, 56 percent of voters aged 18 to 29 voted for Walter Dalton, making it the most Democrat-supportive age demographic in North Carolina.

When combining demographics, similarities between typical Democratic voters and those less likely to have driver's licenses become more apparent. In a study of driver's license ownership by the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute, not only were young



people in Wisconsin less likely to have a valid license, but only 22 percent of young African-American men and 34 percent of young African-American women had a valid driver's license, compared to 64 and 75 percent of young whites, respectively.

"The General Assembly has that knowledge, and they have continued to pass laws that suppress the vote of African-Americans and the vote of high school seniors and college students as well because they're not accepting college IDs as a form of ID at the polls," Easterling said. "It affects us financially, and it feels like our state is going backwards and not forwards and looks as though it doesn't want to hear our voices anymore."

The question of whether state college IDs can be accepted at the polls was one of the issues brought up in federal court this year. North Carolina's voter ID law is already facing a legal challenge and will be in court in 2015, but the Department of Justice, the NAACP and the League of Women Voters also asked the courts to put a hold on the new voting laws for the 2014 election.

Federal court Judge Thomas Schroeder ruled in August against these groups, and the new voting laws will remain in place for the upcoming election.

The North Carolina DMV offers free voter ID cards for people without a license, but opponents have argued that the requirements to prove identity and location, as well as the time required to go to the

DMV, still adds burdens onto people with busy schedules and smaller means.

One part of the voting law that specifically affects young people is the restriction on pre-registration. Only voters who will turn 18 on Election Day can register to vote, and annual voter registration drives in high schools are no longer required. Easterling said these drives in North Carolina high schools were always "spectacular."

"There was one year when we registered over 3,000 high school students in North Carolina and, most likely, we'll never see that again," Easterling said. "There would be schools across rural North Carolina that could get hundreds of students registered in a week. Now you'd be lucky if you could register 25 or 30 students a week."

Friend added it's unfortunate that pre-registration and in-school registration is no longer a part of voting law in North Carolina. He said it will limit registration and turnout at elections.

"When you could register when you got your driver's license, you killed two birds with one stone. It got people interested when they might not have thought about voting or civics," he said.

Overall, Friend thinks voter turnout will drop in the 2014 midterm election because of part of the voter reform law to eliminate voting out of district.

"I think that's going to take some getting used to," he said. "But it won't persist beyond that first election."

Concerns about voting law reform lowering turnout rates are backed by research. The GAO studied voter turnout in Tennessee and Kansas from 2008 to 2012, during which the states enacted similar voter ID laws to those in North Carolina.

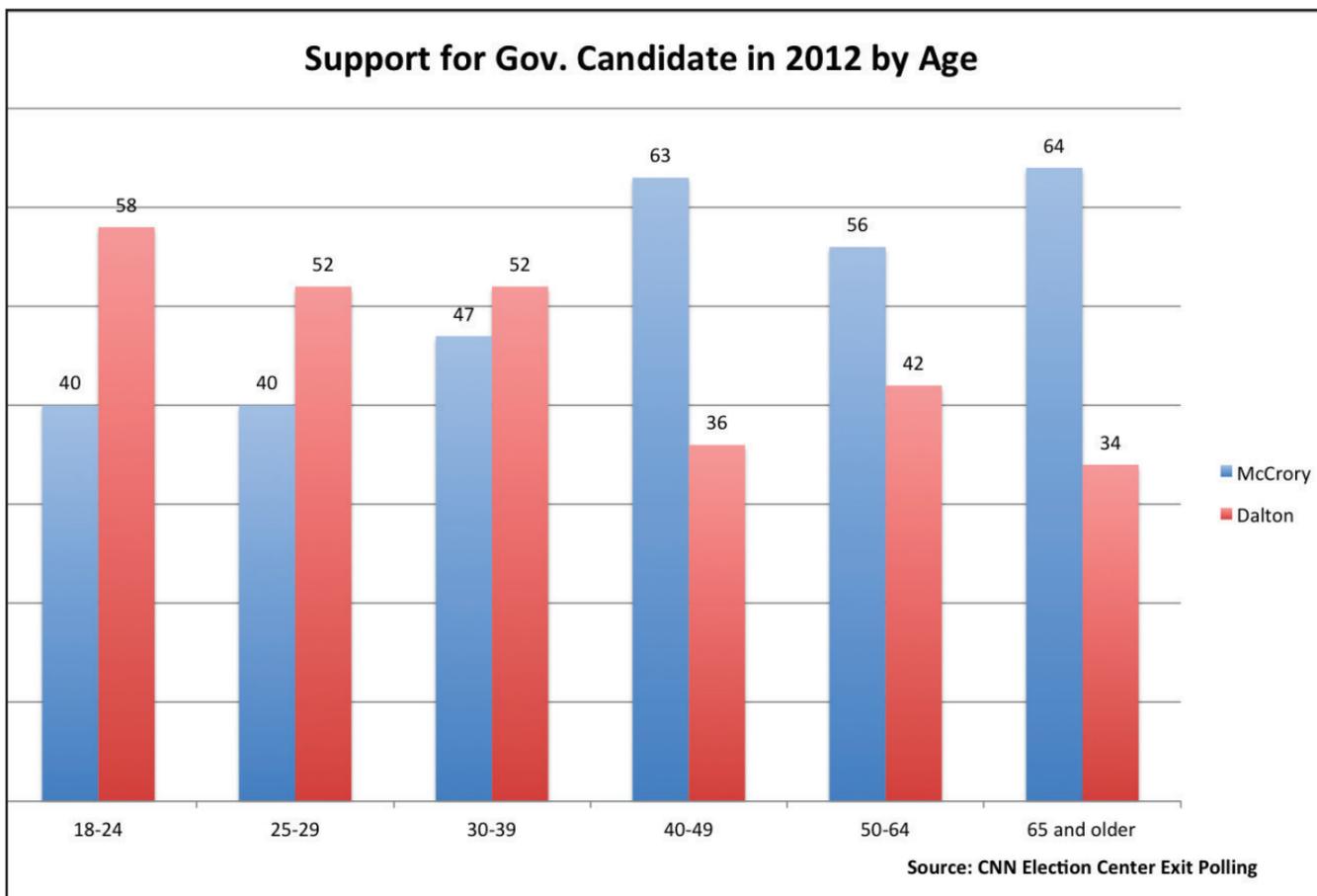
The GAO study found turnout dropped in those two states "to a greater extent than turnout decreased in the selected comparison states — Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware and Maine." In addition, a greater number of provisional ballots were cast in Tennessee and Kansas specifically because of a lack of ID, and less than 40 percent of those ballots were counted in the 2012 election. Additionally, the drop in turnout was particularly sharp among voters aged 18 to 23, as well as African-Americans.

Young people are already one of the smallest demographics as far as turnout in elections, with 55 percent of registered North Carolina voters aged 18 to 25 turning out in 2012. Friend said voting and participation in politics is not presented in a way to engage young people.

"In many ways, it's perceived as something 'adults' do," Friend said.

Easterling said the changes to voting law in the state will exacerbate the reasons young people tend not to vote.

"It makes people say, 'What the heck, I don't want to go through the process anymore,'" he said. "And sometimes they feel like their vote won't count."



Ludacris concert draws large police presence to campus

Hannah Durbin
Senior Reporter

The more than 5,700 people drawn to Ludacris' performance during Homecoming Weekend at Elon University posed a unique challenge for its organizers, calling for an increase in police officers needed to keep concertgoers safe.

The Student Union Board, Campus Security and Student Government Association were responsible for seeing that the crowd, volunteers, and performing artists were safe and under control.

For large events on campus, SGA and SUB must meet a required number of officers per number of guests in order to ensure a safe environment.

In addition to the security of guests and performers, traffic control was another issue that needed to be dealt with in order to guarantee safety.

"Knowing the popularity of the artist, the Homecoming Committee had been in communication with town and campus police for a long time," said SGA Executive Secretary Matthew Crehan, a junior. "Both departments worked together to create a plan for the large number of attendees."

Police presence at the Homecoming concert was greater than at past events because of the high-profile name of the performing artist.

A total of 23 officers from four agencies — including Elon University Police,

Town of Elon Police, Mebane Police Department and Gibsonville Police — were assigned to oversee the crowd with hopes that the increased police presence would discourage people from getting out of hand.

"We hope that our presence makes people think twice before making silly decisions," said Lt. Kelly Blackwelder, Criminal Investigations Lieutenant for Elon Town Police. "Troublemakers will still cause trouble regardless of police presence, but we hope that we can detour people from getting out of control."

Officers were stationed around the Colonnades parking lot, as well as on the balcony of Colonnades E, so that the crowd could be observed from every angle.

The balcony was a centralized location that allowed for a good visual on the crowd, as well as easy communication between the officers.

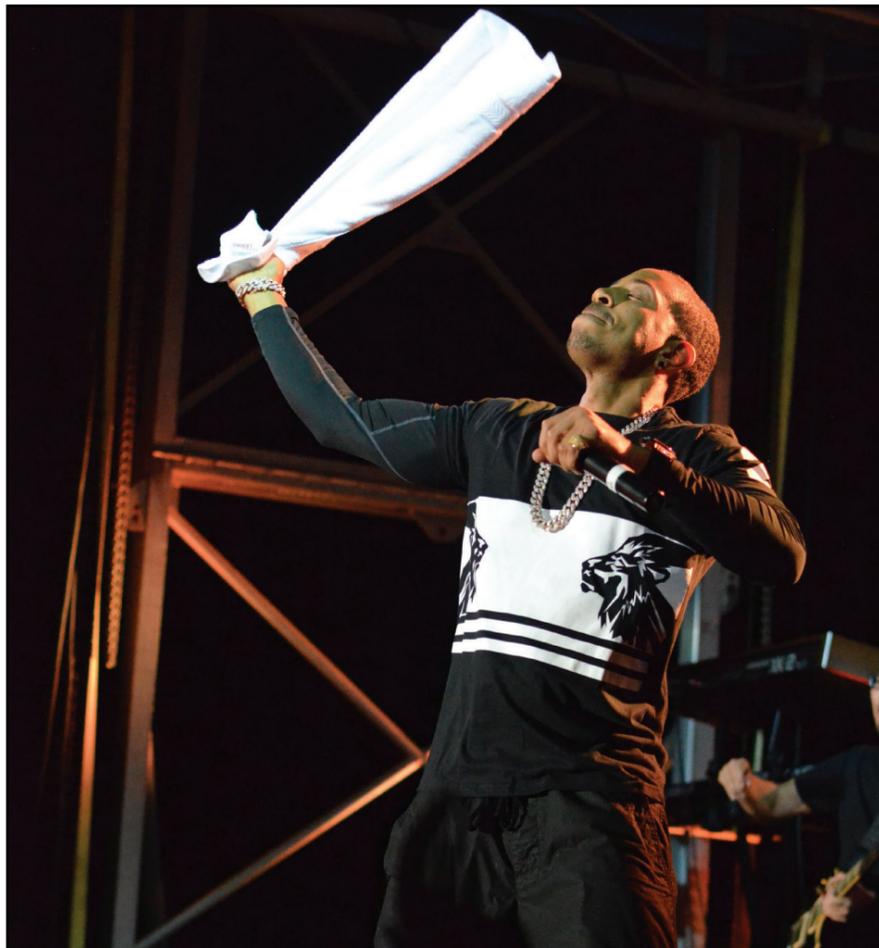
Campus Security and the Town of Elon Police had one primary goal: public safety. Minor violations involving drugs and alcohol were not a main concern, although certain situations were addressed when they became hindrances to overall public safety.

Four people were asked to leave the event for a variety of reasons, and two people were transported by ambulance to the hospital to receive medical attention.

"The security of each event varies depending on the number of expected at-

tendees, but every event takes the necessary precautions to make sure the event is

fun and enjoyable for everyone," Crehan said.



Ludacris drew a large audience at Elon University when he performed at Homecoming last week. JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Orientation Head Staff hard at work preparing for new year

Kaitlin Dunn
Assistant News Editor

New Student Orientation is one of the most hectic times of the year at Elon University. Hundreds of students participate in the week-long events, helping new students acclimate to Elon. Even though it is still 10 months away, members of Head Staff that are in charge of the program are already hard at work planning next year's move-in.

Seventeen sophomores and juniors were chosen to be on Head Staff this year. Head Staff members are former OLs who want a greater involvement with the process. They have to fill out an application and go through a panel interview with administrators and former Head Staff members, followed by a one-on-one meeting with Director of Admissions Katie Height. Former Head Staff members must still re-apply, although they do not have to sit through a panel interview again.

Junior Sarah Vaughan is the Head Staff coordinator this year. Vaughan said she is excited for the upcoming year, especially for starting the process of hiring OLs.

This year the process of hiring OLs will be revamped. Instead of having students sign up for interview times at any point, they have to choose specific interview dates in November, January or February.

"This is really going to streamline the process," Vaughan said. "I think this is going to be easier on everyone, and the process will be a lot smoother and more organized."

Another change this year comes with international orientation. In previous years international orientation has been a completely separate event, but this year, OLs will be in charge of International Orientation as well.

"I think it will be a great way for people to get to know the international population better and a great way to help in-

ternational students transition," Vaughan said.

Head Staff member Grace Ahlering, a junior, said they hope to bring more international students to the team to assist with orientation as a whole.

"They are the only ones who really understand what it's like," Ahlering said. "Their perspective is valuable because they bring things to the table that no one else can."

Head Staff returns to campus three weeks before classes start. The first week is training just for Head Staff, and the next week OLs move in and Head Staff begins their training. During the rest of the year, Head Staff spends their time planning orientation and maintaining a unified team through weekly meetings, retreats and a conference in the spring.

Other events the Head Staff leads include Spring Orientation and Phoenix Fridays for potential students in the spring.

In the spring, students still get to experience convocation and have an OL. Spring OLs are usually former OLs from Fall Orientation.

"The goal is to equalize their experience with students' experience entering in the fall," Vaughan said. "We do our best to make sure all students have the same experience."

Junior Christina Daniels-Freeman is on Head Staff for the first time this year. She decided to join the program after having a great experience as an OL last year, and so far Daniels-Freeman is enjoying her time on Head Staff.

"We all work together, and we are bonded," Daniels-Freeman said. "It's just a like a sports team, minus the sport."

Last weekend Head Staff went on a retreat to the mountains of West Virginia for some bonding. They did teambuilding and trust exercises and began discussing the rest of the year.

"Head Staff really looks at the big picture of orientation, and there is so much that goes into it that most people don't

think about," Daniels-Freeman said. "Everyone really has to trust each other and communicate with a lot of different areas and offices on campus to make sure the new students have a successful orientation"

Also as a team, Head Staff heads to a conference each spring — a gathering of schools in the south that come together to discuss and present the different ways they do orientation.

"It's a great way to learn about different programs and strengthen our own program," Vaughan said.

Daniels-Freeman said the reason Elon's orientation always runs so well is that there are no weak links. This is why it's so important to hire strong OLs who will do their job well.

"Last year, everyone was always talking about how their group was the best group, and I realized they were all right, because there were no weak links," Daniels-Freeman said. "It takes a strong, dedicated group, and in the end it really helps to de-

fine the new students' transition."

Even though Head Staff members spend their time planning orientation, the most important thing Ahlering has learned about being on Head Staff has nothing to do with orientation, but rather is about herself.

"It's all about realizing your personal strengths and how you work with other and can contribute to a team," Ahlering said. "The things I've learned about myself and how I deal with conflict and work with others help me in August during orientation, but also help me with friendships and relationships and other parts of my life. I don't think I realized how much it would affect me."

Ahlering said the past year she has spent on Head Staff has been the most rewarding experience she has had at Elon.

"It's everything I thought it would be and more," Ahlering said. "When you get on staff you think it's going to be one thing, but there was so much more to it. It's my favorite thing I've done at Elon."

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Same sex marriage brings changes to NC

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

In just the past few weeks, LGBTQIA rights in North Carolina have undergone a big change as same-sex marriage became legal in the state. But even as marriages make ripples in North Carolina society and politics, the fight over marriage equality in the state continues.

Same-sex marriage was legalized in North Carolina Oct. 10. Before, there were two federal court cases in Asheville and Greensboro that ruled North Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage violated the U.S. Constitution. What changed things in the state was a Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decision on a case out of Virginia.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes North Carolina, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, but when appealed to the Supreme Court, the justices decided against hearing the appeal.

"What this meant is that the circuit court cases would be the final ruling on that issue, and they would be the prevailing law in that circuit," said Steve Friedland, senior scholar and law professor at Elon University.

As of Oct. 28, 12 same-sex couples have been married in Alamance County, according to the County Register of Deeds. In Mecklenburg County, where the most marriage licenses were issued to same-sex couples (144), the county had the highest number of marriages in one week in county history.

But these changes have not gone smoothly across North Carolina. Magistrates in Swain, Rockingham, Gaston, Union, Graham and Jackson Counties have resigned, citing religious opposition to same-sex marriage. A magistrate in Pasquotank County refused to marry a same-sex couple but did not resign.

Phil Berger, majority leader of the state Senate, said he will introduce legislation to allow magistrates the ability to opt out of performing a same-sex marriage if they have religious objections. Berger is from

Rockingham, where one of the magistrates resigned.

For now, North Carolina's Administrative Office of the Courts is instructing its officers around the state to uphold their oaths.

In Alamance County, Chief District Court Judge Jim Roberson has told magistrates to perform same-sex marriages. But a few days before he made that statement, Roberson said some of the magistrates in Alamance County did not want to perform same-sex marriages.

While same-sex marriages are being performed in the state, North Carolina's top two legislators are attempting to curb these unions. Berger and House Speaker Thom Tillis both announced they would be appealing the Greensboro district court ruling.

"We had two separate federal court rulings in North Carolina that basically found the same thing [that the ban is unconstitutional]," Friedland said. "The one in Greensboro, however, stayed its ruling to allow for an appeal. Not so, apparently, in Asheville, where the federal court ruled it was unconstitutional in light of the Fourth Circuit ruling and did not stay its appeal."

Tillis and Berger will be taking the case to the same appellate court where Virginia's same-sex marriage ban was found unconstitutional, which means they will face an uphill battle.

"Unless something is presented that can either distinguish the case or somehow show that the North Carolina ban does not violate the constitution, one of two things will happen," Friedland said. "The Fourth Circuit will refuse to hear it, which it can, or it will reach the merits of the case and decide that, in all likelihood, this ruling falls within our ruling on the Virginia case."

Before the Fourth Circuit considers this case, Tills and Berger have to show that the General Assembly is the proper defendant in this case and not the state's executive branch, where Attorney General Roy Cooper has said he will not defend North Carolina's same-sex marriage ban.



Wake County Sheriff's deputy Chad Biggs carries a cake as he enters the count courthouse to marry his partner. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

In other words, the two need to show that they have standing.

"If you are sued in court and you lose, you can appeal. But I can't generally come in and say, 'I'm going to appeal on your behalf,'" Friedland said.

Tillis is running for U.S. Senate against incumbent Sen. Kay Hagan. Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science at Elon and assistant director of the Elon Poll, said the timing of this appeal is not ideal for Tillis' campaign because it is a polarizing issue, but it will not necessarily hurt him.

"The biggest decision this could make as far as LGBTQ issues would be if Tillis says something hateful," Husser said. "But that's not likely because Tillis is a

very well-spoken and careful candidate."

But the fact that Tillis is taking time out of his campaign to appeal this case speaks to what Husser says is the biggest thing hurting Tillis' campaign: his job as Speaker of the House.

"It prevents him from doing shoe-leather campaigning, which even in an age of online ads and all this spending is one of the best ways to get votes," he said.

North Carolina is now one of 32 states where same-sex marriage is legal, with cases dealing with the constitutionality of these bans still going on in eight more. More than 60 percent of Americans now live in a state where gay and lesbian couples can marry.

With new policies, tailgating sees bump in attendance

Kimberly Honnibal
Senior Reporter

The long-standing tradition of Elon University tailgating has hit hurdles in recent years — with declining attendance being a main factor.

But now, under the guidance of a tailgating manager and new student involvement, that seems to be changing for the better.

"They are not just hosted by Greek organizations," junior Megan Peden said. "Basketball and track and field have hosted two tailgates, and academic organizations such as The Center for Leadership are hosting some."

In the three years since Adam Bell, the assistant director of Student Activities, has been at Elon University, tailgating practices have changed a lot. Tailgates used to be located in the parking lot used for the Global Neighborhood.

"Because of the location, students didn't know that tailgating was even happening due to construction," Bell said.

Tailgates are now located along Bank of America Drive leading up to Rhodes Stadium.

They are also much more affordable for the average student organization or group of friends. While ordering a tent

and reserving tables and chairs doesn't seem expensive, students who wanted to tailgate prior to the changes would have had to spend upwards of \$100. Now it only costs \$25 for a tent and a table.

"We've also streamlined sign-ups," Bell said.

Before, students had to print out an application, take it to the Office of Student Activities and then go back to the office for a meeting about rules and regulations.

The process is much simpler now. Students only need to sign up online, and Bell will email them the information they need to know for the dates they signed up to have a tailgate.

"The biggest misconception about tailgating is that you have to be involved in a student organization to tailgate, and that is not the case," Bell said.

He added that groups of students that live together in apartments have started signing up to host their own tailgates along with other organizations on campus.

Other changes to tailgating practices include a longer time before the game and after the game starts.

Previously, tailgates started four hours before kick-off and ended half an hour before kick-off. Tailgates now begin five

hours before kick-off and last until the end of the first quarter.

"If we didn't have [time restraints], then people would be out there all day," Bell said. "Though we want to create that atmosphere of fun and school pride, it's not an all-day party."

Although they do not condone an all-day event that may become more of a party, the tailgate organizers are not preventing students from having a good time and engaging in activities of their choice.

"We have police officers out there, not to pester students, but to build relationships with those groups and to serve as backup for us to enforce the university policy," Bell said.

Students who are of legal age are allowed to have six wine coolers or beers per person.

That is not the Office of Student Activities mandate, but a decision coming from the university.

"If my staff sees something, we ask the cops to intervene," Bell said. "But the cops don't arrest anyone — they don't make a scene. They just ask you to throw it away. We aren't going by each individual tent and bothering people. It's just another safety precaution."

Bell and students have noticed a dra-

matic difference in student attendance at tailgating since these changes have been instituted.

"I've seen a huge increase in participation in tailgating and school spirit overall," said SGA Executive Secretary and junior Matt Crehan said.

For the Homecoming tailgate, more than 45 organizations and groups signed up to tailgate, a huge increase from the 25 groups that hosted tents at Homecoming in 2012.

"The diversity of groups has changed as well," Bell said. "Now that it is more affordable, more groups decide to come out."

Groups may be more willing to participate more now that prices for hosting have decreased, but students enjoy tailgates for other reasons.

"I go to tailgates because I feel a great sense of community," junior Megan Peden said. "I enjoy engaging in discussions with different members of our community, and it's a great way to encourage more attendance at the games."

The Office of Student Activities encourages students from all areas of Elon to attend tailgates and support the football team.

Elon's next home football game will be Nov. 15 against the University of Maine.

Elon senior starts language conversation club

Kaitlin Dunn
Assistant News Editor

Elon University senior Marissa Wertheimer earned her free plane ticket to Spain by going to El Centro and practicing her Spanish skills for 200 hours. But when she talked to students in her German class who studied abroad, she realized they did not have the opportunity to practice speaking outside of class.

This realization prompted her to create a club in which students would be able to talk to one another in the same foreign language in an informal environment. If approved, the language conversation club will count as Wertheimer's legacy project through the Leadership Education Development (LEAD) program.

Although conversation practice is available to Spanish-speaking students through El Centro, there is no way for students to practice for other languages outside of class.

"We learn a lot of vocab in classes, but when most of it focuses on history and academics, it's hard sometimes to converse about normal things," Wertheimer said.

With the help of other students in her German class, Wertheimer is starting with German conversation meetings, which she calls classes, in the next few weeks, and hopes to get classes set up for all other languages taught at Elon by spring semester.

Classes will be informal gatherings of students held once or twice a week in the afternoons or evenings. Each language will meet at a different time for around 45 minutes during which students can talk about any topics they want. Wertheimer's goal is to get at least one native speaker at each meeting to facilitate the conversation — or if no native speaker is available, a student in an upper level language class.

"I think students who plan to study abroad will benefit most," Club Advisor and Assis-

tant Professor of German Scott Windham said. "When students study abroad they find they need this type of conversation practice for all the times they're not in class. They'll need it to talk to friends or get around the city or even just communicating in the dorm or with their host family."

The club has a dual purpose — the first to help students who want to improve their language skills, especially those who are planning to go abroad. The second purpose is to get international students involved and help them to meet people outside of their classes.

One of the biggest challenges Wertheimer faces is trying to make the classes open to students at all different levels. She wants to get enough students at each meeting so they can break off and talk with people with whom they are comfortable.

"We want to make it aimed at students at any proficiency level," Wertheimer said. "Students naturally tend to split themselves up into groups where they feel comfortable."

She plans to have worksheet and discussion points so that if students do break up into smaller groups during the meeting, they will all be focusing on the same topic. Discussion topics might include basic introductions and favorite things, what students did over the weekend or current events.

Outside of the weekly classes, Wertheimer plans to host at least one event for language per month.

"It would be fun to do a movie night and then talk about that or do a cooking night," said first year Tristan Hardinger, who is helping Wertheimer plan the conversation classes. "This gets people out of just speaking and gets them interacting with each other."

Hardinger will serve as the German language coordinator for the club. In the hierarchy of the club, each language will have their own coordinator who will be in charge of lesson plans and overseeing the discussion leaders. There will be one person who oversees



KAITLIN DUNN | Assistant News Editor
Senior Marissa Wertheimer is trying to start a language conversation club. If approved, the club will start meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays for German speakers this semester and other languages will start in the spring.

all of the language coordinators.

Hardinger said he decided to get involved in the club because of his passion for the German language. He hopes that the lack of experience required to be in the club will encourage more people to come.

"I really want to spark German interest on campus," Hardinger said. "We don't have as many people as Spanish or French, but if people know they can come to these meetings and learn to speak German better, hopefully they will get interested in it."

Wertheimer said she is pleased with the positive responses she has been getting from students and professors. She has held two interest meetings with many students expressing interest in the club.

"All of the teachers are really excited about the club," Wertheimer said. "And I've had a

lot of students who are really interested in leadership roles and are passionate about making the club something great. I'm really excited to get started."

Windham and assistant professor of Italian Brandon Essary will serve as advisors for the club.

"Students who take languages across the country say the thing they want to work on most is their spoken language skills," Windham said. "This provides a space for students to work on their spoken language and work on areas of language that we don't get a chance to work on in class."

Once the club has officially been approved by student activities, German meetings will begin and will continue throughout the semester every Tuesday and Thursday night at 7 p.m. in Carlton Commons.

Multicultural Center now Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

The Multicultural Center will change its name and adopt a new vision, mission statement and goals to clarify the center's role at Elon University.

The center, located on the second floor of Moseley, will now be called CREDE, which stands for Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education. CREDE will focus on providing support to people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. It will also offer diversity education services to all students, faculty and staff.

"IT HELPS STUDENTS BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CENTER DOES."

BROOKE BARNETT
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PROVOST
FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

According to Brooke Barnett, interim associate provost for inclusive community, the name change will make the purpose of the center more evident.

"It helps students better understand what the center does," she said.

Discussions about changes to the center started in June, according to Randy Williams Jr., assistant to the president and dean of multicultural affairs. He started his job over the summer and said he and other Multicultur-

al Center staff members, many of them also new to the university, first captured people's thoughts about the center.

"We found that the Multicultural Center wasn't that visible to the university," Williams said. "There wasn't a lot of clarity about what it does. I am grateful for my predecessors and wanted to build on their work."

In addition to examining the existing Multicultural Center structure, Williams said he drew ideas about how to structure the new center after referring to resources such as past assessments of diversity at Elon and the structures for centers at other universities.

Williams also worked with the Inclusive Community Council and closely examined the 2013 Provost Office's Functions of Offices and Centers. The report details the roles of all the university resources that focus on diversity and inclusion, including the Truitt Center, Office of Inclusive Community Well-Being, Gender and LGBTQIA Center, Global Education Center, Center for Access and Success and Multicultural Center.

"We have all these centers that focus on multicultural work, but how do they all connect?" Williams said. "That's what I wanted to find out."

Through his research, Williams said he found that the Multicultural Center was focused on providing support for racial and ethnic minorities and offering diversity education. He then created CREDE's new vision, mission statement and goals to communicate his ideas to the university community.

"We want to create an atmosphere where people are inclined to be concerned and respectful of differences," he said. "Beyond that, we want them to want to take action on any



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
The Multicultural Center has been renamed the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Diversity Education.

oppression." Williams said the diversity education at CREDE will contribute to the first theme of the Elon Commitment, "an unprecedented university commitment to diversity and global engagement." He said he hopes the center will facilitate intercultural competency and lead students to take action on social justice issues, skills that they can take into the real world.

"Diversity and inclusion are sensitive topics, but college campuses are the best places for the discussions to happen," Williams said. "We should be covering these topics to give students a full education."

The name change comes after the Multicultural Center unveiled renovated spaces in Moseley at the beginning of the semester, including the main space, the African-American Resource Room and the Asian Resource Room. Other spaces that are a part of the

center include the Hispanic/Latino(a) Resource Room in Moseley, which opened last spring, and El Centro, which is in Carlton but became part of the center over the summer.

Sophomore Jessi Kirschner, a student worker at the Multicultural Center, said the recent renovations opened up the space and that the name change will make people feel welcome.

"The name change is great because we're mainly focusing on diversity as a whole, not just multicultural students," she said. "It's more inviting to people around campus."

Sophomore Camaya Miller, a student program coordinator for the Diversity Emerging Education Program (DEEP), agrees.

"The name change is really great because it brings in all the aspects of diversity," she said. "The name change really engulfs everything we do and doesn't just focus on race."

Constructing the

Organizations help refugees find new

Jonathan Black and Eric Halperin
Editor-in-Chief and Reporter

Rashidi Byaombe wasn't used to peace.

After living most of his life in war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo and a refugee camp in South Africa, Byaombe and his family arrived Sept. 13, 2013 in Greensboro. Byaombe hadn't found a job, nor had he secured a place to live. Fortunately for the family, the North Carolina African Services Coalition had prepared for their arrival.

The coalition is a nonprofit resettlement agency that helps refugees and asylum-seekers in Greensboro find places to live, employment services and information on settlement and assimilation into American life.

In the United States, refugee status or asylum is granted to people who have been oppressed because of their race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion. Asylum-seekers are those whose claim as a refugee hasn't been evaluated according to the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Since the coalition formed in 1997, it has helped about 200 new refugees a year from around the world adjust to their new lives.

"If there's some question I don't understand, I can run to the coalition and ask what to do," Byaombe said. "They're like my parents here in the United States."

Before moving to Greensboro, Byaombe lived in a refugee camp in South Africa for about 10 years. But in 2008, it was no longer safe for the Byaombe family while xenophobic attacks erupted across the country, resulting in at least 60 deaths.

Byaombe began to apply for resettlement.

"We didn't know if we were going to the United States," he said. "We explained our problem, that we were not safe in South Africa."

The family boarded a plane in September 2013 to take them to safety. When they touched down at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, a member of the coalition was waiting for them.

Welcome to Greensboro

Million Mekonnen, executive director of the North Carolina African Services Coalition, is one of the nine employees who works to help the refugees, or "immigration clients" as the coalition calls them, adjust.

"When new clients come, I go to the airport and pick them up myself, so I know them from the first day they're here," Mekonnen said. "They want to change their situation and make it better."

The coalition will have an apartment picked out, rent paid for and other services provided by the time its clients arrive. It will continue to provide services for up to five years after the individual or family first arrives in Greensboro.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Center for New North Carolinians expands on programs offered by the coalition by picking up where the coalition leaves off, according to Holly Sienkiewicz, interim director of the center.

The center offers health access programs to educate refugees on the American health-care system, in addition to tutoring services



Asmeron Ghebremicael is the co-owner of El Hadj Auto Saltes in Greensboro. Ghebremicael received a loan from the North Carolina African Services to start the business.

and English language courses, so clients can walk to them.

"Public transportation isn't the best in Greensboro," Sienkiewicz said. "We do all that we can to build bridges so they know what the city of Greensboro has to offer."

Although the people the coalition serves start off in the United States on a level playing field, every case is different.

The time it takes for clients to arrive from their home countries varies. Mekonnen said refugees from the Middle East can take about five years to be cleared to travel to the United States, while some in refugee camps there or in Africa, wait up to 20 years to leave.

"There are people, actually, who have been in refugee camp 20 years or more," Mekonnen said. "There are people who have never been outside of the refugee camp who don't know anything other than that refugee camp."

Mekonnen, who just returned from a Rwandan camp in September, said camp dwellers can be left in limbo.

"Either they cannot go back to their country because it is a complicated issue or they cannot integrate to the local community," he said. "How can we better service them? We need to see the situation."

Mekonnen knows from first-hand experience what it's like to be an outsider. Originally from Ethiopia, he moved to North Carolina in 2004 to attend graduate school at North Carolina State University. While working at Research Triangle Park (RTP), he met the previous director of the coalition, and shortly thereafter, began working for the coalition in September 2011.

"I lived in RTP for seven years, but I always felt like a stranger," Mekonnen said. "Within two years I started calling Greensboro home because it's very diverse, and I see people like me all over the place."

To make sure immigrants and refugees feel welcomed by the community, Sienkiewicz and the Center for New North Carolinians work to build the relationship

between natives and immigrants.

"A lot of new arrivals are isolated civically, linguistically, socially," Sienkiewicz said. "Our mission is to bridge immigrants and refugee communities with the local community."

Building bridges

A highly populated refugee community isn't new to Greensboro. For decades refugees and immigrants have been moving to the city to start a new life.

Major shifts in the ethnic population began after World War II. In the 1960s, West African nations like Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia began sending students to North Car-

"OUR MISSION IS TO BRIDGE IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES."

HOLLY SIENKIEWICZ
INTERIM DIRECTOR

olina A&T State University.

Later, the Vietnam War caused a flood of refugees to enter into the United States in the mid and late 1970s. One reason for this influx was that the U.S. sponsored an evacuation of 125,000 Vietnamese refugees, most of whom were educated professionals. A second wave of poorer, rural dwellers followed a few years later.

That flood has since dwindled to a steady 400 refugees coming into Greensboro every year, with roughly 750 entering Guilford County. But unlike in previous decades when refugees typically came from

one country, the inundation has recently changed to a mix of people.

"The refugees used to come in waves," Sienkiewicz said. "At one time — Vietnamese. Another time — Cambodians. Now, it's much more diversified."

The conglomeration of peoples from various walks of life has made the adjustment easier for Byaombe, who said his biggest surprise about Greensboro was how much people like each other.

"They don't care where you are coming from," Byaombe said. "They talk to you like a friend, like a brother or sister."

The influx of refugees prompted Greensboro's City Council to establish it a "Welcoming City" to immigrants and refugees. In conjunction with the announcement, the American Friends Services Committee — a Quaker group working for social justice — released a report detailing steps to allow equal access to opportunities for all city residents.

The report touched upon transportation, language barriers and access to services, among others.

"Resettling refugees is not a one-agency job — it is everybody's job," Mekonnen said. "Agencies have limited resources, so without the help of the community we wouldn't really support any of the refugees that are resettling."

Today, there are some parts of home to provide comfort for the various immigrant communities. An abundance of international markets have appeared, and Byaombe has taken full advantage of it.

"There's an international market here that we enjoy," Byaombe said. "We can go there, and I can find some food I saw many years in Congo. I say, 'Oh, oh my god, this food is here.' Then I enjoy it."

Not every person has transitioned as well to his or her new living situation.

According to Mekonnen, it might take up to a year for immigrants to adjust to their current lives. Some of the challenges they face are setting their expectations too high

American Dream

life in Greensboro

and struggling to make ends meet.

Occasionally, this leads to some refugees returning to their home countries.

"I know this client (from Iraq) who came in August 2012, and he went right back after two months," Mekonnen said. "This person had a job over there, and he was living a decent life."

'Legs on the ground'

The struggle to find jobs has been a problem for agencies that work with refugees.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement, a program within the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, named Greensboro a national resettlement site in 1980, which factors in the cost of living and job availability, among other things.

Historically, Greensboro has had a strong manufacturing base. Sienkiewicz said jobs in warehouses and factories are traditionally easier for non-English speakers to pick up, but there have been some logistical issues.

"The calculation is a little behind because typically, in the past, Greensboro had a large manufacturing base," she said. "Since then, manufacturing has been abroad, but we still receive the same numbers because that calculation isn't updated regularly."

The North Carolina African Services Coalition has begun to combat this shortage of jobs with expansions in the last few years. One of its major additions is the Microenterprise for Refugees in the Triad (MERIT).

The program, partnered with the Center for New North Carolinians, helps refugees become self-sufficient, develop capital resources and build credit scores.

Asmerom Ghebremicael is one of MERIT's recipients.

Originally from Eritrea, a county in Northeast Africa, he immigrated to Greensboro in 2011. He also lived in Sudan, Libya,

Tunisia and Romania.

When Ghebremicael first lived in Greensboro, he worked at a chicken processing plant, but it was his previous experience working as a mechanic that helped him receive a MERIT Grant, which is funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Ghebremicael used the grant to open El Hadj Auto Sales, a car dealership and maintenance shop, which he co-owns with three other people.

"When you come, you don't have anything," he said. "The coalition lends you some money in order to grow. They make you put your legs on the ground."

Loans average about \$4,500 over three years, and there have been about 25 recipients so far. In addition to giving people a jump-start on a business, the program also allows them to build credit scores, which will help make outside financial resources available.

"We're really proud that this organization provides this service," Mekonnen said. "This is very unique, not only in Greensboro, but North Carolina as a whole."

The coalition plans for more than 100 additional people to receive loans in the next four years. One of those might be Byaombe's wife, Lindavome.

Byaombe, who is currently employed at a Jacobson Company warehouse, said he is hoping he and Lindavome will be able to open their own hairdressing business in the future. Lindavome is a trained African hairdresser, but is currently learning the American style.

But people who don't have a specialty, or don't have aspirations to start a business, will still receive the coalition's help with seeking employment. If the client can't find a job, the coalition will check in on the individual or family every day, according to Ahmed Abdullah, MERIT Coordinator.



Million Mekonnen began working for the North Carolina African Services Coalition in September 2011. JONATHAN BLACK | Editor-in-Chief

"For a client, anytime they're not working, we have someone who can help them look and profile a job for them," he said. "Every day we're working with them, and there's no complaints."

Moving forward

For Mekonnen, the long hours are more than made up for by simply seeing the people the coalition is helping. Returning from the refugee camp gave him additional perspective.

"There's no worse place than a refugee camp," he said. "If people existed in that situation, they could exist in any situation. They're really working hard to change their situation. They are resilient people and so this is a difficult job, but actually it is really rewarding."

Even after clients of the coalition have reached a point in their lives when they no longer need its services, more often than not, they tend to stay connected.

"Once they become independent they move to a better location which they can afford," Million said. "They come in and say hello. They call us. It's like a family."

As for Byaombe and Ghebremicael, both have goals set in mind. Byaombe will continue to work at the warehouse and work toward opening a business he and Lindavome can operate.

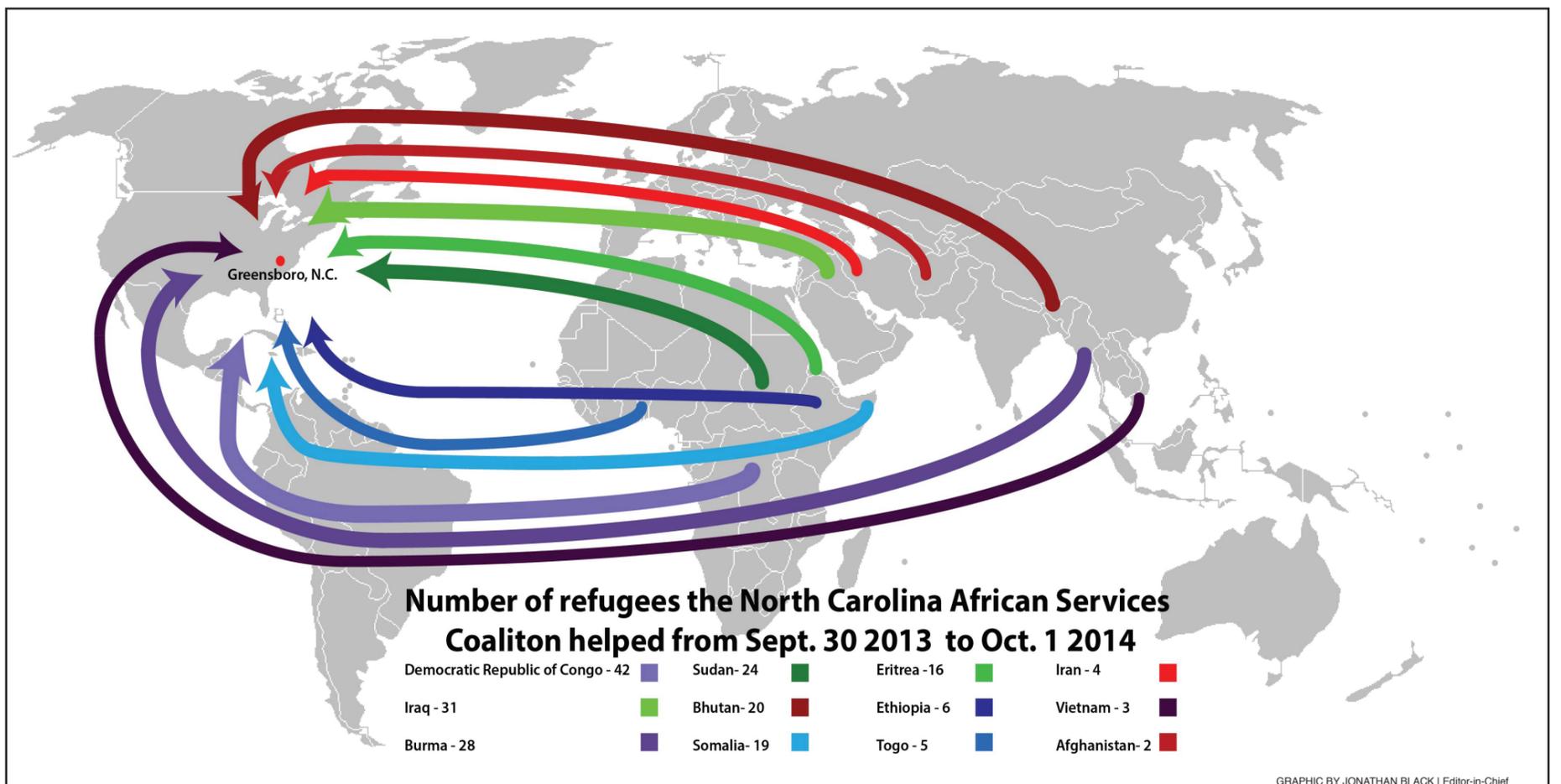
Ghebremicael said he is hoping his wife will join him in North Carolina soon. She is currently in Uganda, waiting on a visa that may take up to five months to arrive. While he's waiting, he occupies his time helping other newly settled refugees, which he said he enjoys.

"When they come, I show them the place," Ghebremicael said. "When they need a car and start a job, I give them a car. Later on, when they make money, they can give it back to me."

As Byaombe and Ghebremicael wait for the next step in their lives as official Greensboro residents, they both said life is better.

"Before we came, we didn't know if we were going to make it," Byaombe said. "When I came, we had someone who showed us how to live, what to do. It would be very difficult without them."

To see the full multimedia report, visit elompok.com



Cheat Sheet: US-terrorist relations

By the News Editors

Americans were shocked when videos came out showing U.S. journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff being executed by the organization now controlling much of Iraq and Syria. But another shock followed when the U.S. National Security Council threatened Foley's family with charges of terrorism for attempting to pay his captors' ransom.

ISIS, also referred to as ISIL, the Islamic State, and Daesh, has made \$20 million in ransom payments this year, according to David Cohen, the Treasury Department's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. And while ISIS demanded more than \$100 million for Foley's release, the U.S. government refused.

In the wake of both James Foley and U.S. Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, voices have called for changes to the hard-line position that the U.S. does not "negotiate with terrorists." Although they claim not to, a New York Times report showed that, since 2008, France, Spain and Switzerland have given more than \$80 million to al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

This is where the breach in ransom positions originates. Supporters of the "no ransom" side can point to the large ransoms countries pay, namely France's payment of more than \$50 million in the past six years, and say that ransoms do not deter kidnappings — in fact, they may encourage them.

Those opposed say the variation of ransom policies between different countries creates the incentive for more kidnappings. David Cameron, the United Kingdom's prime minister, addressed other European nations like France and Germany at the time of Foley's murder to insist they stop paying ransoms, thus creating this divide.

To say that the United States never negotiates with terrorists for hostages is inaccurate. While money is not supposed to be traded for hostages, often foreign fighters are exchanged for American or allied citizens.

The most recent example is Sgt. Bergdahl, who was traded for five Taliban members, each of whom were high up during the time the Taliban controlled Afghanistan in the 1990s. But in Bergdahl's case, the U.S. was already pulling out of Afghanistan, and both the Taliban and the U.S. were negotiating prisoner releases. Also, the deal was negotiated by Qatar, so the U.S. could claim it did not negotiate with terrorists.

The U.S. could not say the same in 2010,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
According to the US Treasury Department ISIS has made \$20 million in ransoms this year.

when it released a militant and former spokesman for Muqtada al-Sadr, a major religious and political figure in Iraq who called for the removal of U.S. troops by force. The spokesman, Qais al-Khazali, was released in exchange for Peter Moore, a British contractor working in Iraq.

In the 1980s, Israel, in conjunction with the U.S., released hundreds of its prisoners in exchange for Americans held hostage by Hezbollah. But, to make it seem like the two countries had not negotiated with terrorists, Israel said the prisoners were already scheduled to be released.

The history of the U.S. making negotiations with terrorists, revolutionaries and others goes back more than a century. When the U.S. set up a colonial government in the Philippines, a policy of attraction was created to pardon revolutionaries who did not support Filipino nationalist leader Emilio Aguinaldo. According to Michael Oren, senior fellow at the Shalem Center, before the U.S. went to war with the Barbary Pirates in the early 19th Century, nearly 20 percent of government spending went to pay ransoms for American hostages.

But one of the most well-known examples of the U.S. negotiating for hostages was the Iran-Contra scandal. Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group who were friendly within Iran, was holding Americans hostage in Lebanon. At the same time, fighters in Nicaragua known as "Contras" were attempting to topple the country's revolutionary government. Funding either the Contras or selling weapons to the Iranians, who were in a war with Iraq at the time, was banned by U.S. and international law.

The U.S., in the mid-1980s, sent weapons to Iranian moderates who held a softer position toward the United States in exchange for the American hostages. The U.S. was reimbursed and used that money to fund the Contras. When these actions were uncovered, it led to the creation of an investigation commission and the end of various leading military figures like Lt. Col. Oliver North and National Security Adviser John Poindexter.

As the world debates whether to allow ransoms for hostages, the United States as of now looks to continue its current policies of not negotiating, at least for the time being.

Alpha Chi Omega hosts Domestic Violence Week

Kimberly Honiball
Senior Reporter

With a flurry of activity surrounding students on Elon University's campus, it can be hard to understand everything going on around us on a daily basis. Elon University's Alpha Chi Omega hosted its Domestic Violence Awareness Week from Oct. 20 to Oct. 24.

Events included handing out donuts on Speaker's Corner stating "Donut let love hurt," as well as a walk against domestic violence, a profit share and a "Mr. Alpha Chi" event.

"Questions will be asked during the question and answer round regarding domestic violence awareness," said Hannah Rolland, junior and vice president of philanthropy for Alpha Chi Omega, about the event. "It brings guys into the circle of understanding and allows us to reach out to more of a male audience."

Eleven male students participated in the "Mr. Alpha Chi" event on Friday from all areas of campus, including sports teams, fraternities and student organizations.

"It's for a cool charity," said senior James Johnston. "It's awesome because you get to watch people make fools out of themselves for half an hour onstage, and it supports a good cause."

Johnston represented the rugby team and was crowned "Mr. Alpha Chi" at the end of the night.

Students from all areas of campus attended this week's events.

"My entire criminal justice class is here to learn more about the cause," sophomore Hannah Daniel said.

Many Alpha Chi Omega members agreed on the importance of informing students about their philanthropy.

"I think it's important because a lot of people don't really know about it," said sophomore Alex Bernosky. "If you explain it to them, of course they think it's awful, but they don't think about how often it happens, particularly on campus."

One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, according to Safe Horizon, an advocacy group.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence notes that one in seven men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

"People just don't realize it's happening," Rolland said. "It's a lot more prevalent than people think."

and Abrahams said this was unintentional, but it creates a good mindset for the rest of the week.

"For me, it let's me think about preparation for the first half of the week and then I get to carry it with me for the days after," Abrahams said. "It's a nice centering point."

While 20 Minutes Still has only been at Elon for a few weeks, it is showing a notable following among Elon staff.

"It varies from week to week. Around break, the numbers are smaller, so it depends what people are doing," Abrahams said. "But we've had days where 10 to 12 people have come."

Interns at the Truitt Center have also begun holding 20 Minutes Still events on Mondays for students who can't make it to the Wednesday events.

20 Minutes Still seeks to provide time for self

Michael Papich
News Editor

Life on any college campus, like Elon University, can often be busy, stressful, exhausting and demoralizing. But now, once a week at Elon's Truitt Center, anyone on campus has open access to a scarce commodity: some quiet time to one's self.

The new group 20 Minutes Still gathers inside the Truitt Center's Sacred Space every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. Like the name suggests, the weekly meeting provides an extended moment of silence for anyone who comes.

"It's always about 15 minutes of sitting down and 13 minutes of pure silence," said Joel Harter, assistant chaplain for Protestant life and one of the organizers of 20 Minutes Still.

The structure of the sessions is usually the same: whoever is leading the meditation will begin with a few words to encourage focus, then the chime of bells will signal the start of silence.

Inside the Truitt Center's Sacred Space, the gathered 20 Minutes Still group is cut off from much of the noise of the outside, while the ambient sounds of footsteps in the hall and cars moving through E. Haggard Avenue still bleed in, adding a supportive backdrop to the relaxing atmosphere.

"We try to offer less guided meditation. Sometimes we'll start with a poem, sometimes some words of encouragement, and other times we'll devote more time to silence," said Diana Abrahams, multi-faith and intern coordinator at the Truitt Center and the other organizer of 20 Minutes Still.

The poems used so far have drawn from different traditions and faiths and have included writings ranging from modern poet Mary Oliver to famed Sufi poet Rumi.

"We're very low-key, and we want to be open to everyone regardless of faith," Harter said.

Currently, the only meditation group on campus besides 20 Minutes Still

is Iron Tree Blooming, a student-run organization. But organizers of 20 Minutes Still aren't trying to emulate the existing organization.

"Iron Tree Blooming's sessions are longer and are more serious. It also draws from Buddhist traditions more heavily," Harter said. "I'm enthusiastic about Iron Tree Blooming, but 20 Minutes Still offers a better opportunity to staff members because it's during the lunch hour."

Iron Tree Blooming meets 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, making it harder for faculty and staff to attend.

In fact, 20 Minutes Still is mostly faculty and staff members, with only a few students showing up this semester. About a half-dozen people attended a recent meeting of the group.

"Also, meditation is so beneficial, so the more opportunities we have to bring it to campus, the better," Harter said.

The timing of 20 Minutes Still — midday on Wednesday — also puts it at the very center of the workweek. Harter

Hagan and Fjeld: Equality, education and the economy

It's that time of year, and the midterm elections in North Carolina are drawing national attention. In the most expensive race in the state's history, the stakes are high. For North Carolina college students, these midterm elections are especially crucial.

For this year's race, certain issues, including reproductive rights, women's rights, equal pay, public education issues, the national debt, and jobs and the economy, are ones students should pay special attention to.

The platforms of Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., for U.S. Senate, and Laura Fjeld, for U.S. House of Representatives have college students' best interests.

Hagan, the current Democratic incumbent, is running against Speaker of the N.C. House Thom Tillis, R-N.C., to keep her seat in the Senate. Hagan has run with a strong focus on reproductive rights for women.

Voting against congressional plans to defund Planned Parenthood, she has stated multiple times that she is a strong supporter of a woman's right to choose and that a woman's choice should be between her and her doctor.

HAGAN

- + Supports women's rights to choose
- + Supports increasing minimum wage
- + Supports cutting the deficit
- + Against cuts on education

FJELD

- + Supports women's rights to choose
- + Supports increasing minimum wage
- + Supports equal pays
- + Against cuts on education

GRAPHIC BY ERIN VALENTINE | Opinions Editor

WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

When?

- November 4th

Poll Times:

- Open 6:30 a.m.
- Close 7:30 p.m.

Where?

- If you are registered to vote in Elon, you go to:

Elon Fire Station #2
2110 Power Line Rd
Elon, NC 27244

Check your voter registration:
https://www.ncsbe.gov/webapps/voter_search/

For reproductive rights, Fjeld, who is running for North Carolina's 6th Congressional District, is on the same page with Hagan in that a woman's health care is between her and her doctor. She said the government has no right to dictate a woman's decision concerning her health.

As for Hagan, her continued support of women's rights also includes her vote for the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which aimed prevent domestic violence and international human trafficking.

An advocate for equal pay, Hagan's first co-sponsored piece of legislation in the Senate was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The act gives more leeway for those who believe they are not receiving equal pay and need time to provide proof of discrimination.

For a student, public education is an essential issue, especially in North Carolina. Over the past few years, the state has seen cuts on thousands of teaching positions, on arts programs and on teachers' salaries.

As a member of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Hagan has been outspoken about public education and pay for teachers. Her position on the committee gives her an inside view on the country's need for better public education funding.

Fjeld said that she stands against cuts

on schools, teaching positions and pay. Having served for the past five years as vice president and general counsel for the University of North Carolina system, she is no stranger to the importance of education.

Fjeld is also focusing on creating more jobs in North Carolina and boosting the economy. She supports policies to bring businesses to North Carolina and increase the minimum wage, the latter of which Hagan agrees on. Hagan has voted in support of raising the federal minimum wage from its current \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10.

According to the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, student debt makes up 6 percent of the national debt, accounting for more than \$1 trillion from federal student loans alone.

Fjeld promotes cutting the deficit and streamlining spending. Her website states that she will oppose any budget proposal that pushes the responsibility of the debt onto children or students.

Concerning issues of the greatest importance to college students, Hagan and Fjeld are the two candidates who best represent our views.

No matter which candidate you support, vote on Nov. 4.

Have your voice heard, and have a say in what happens in you county, state and country. Have a hand in affecting your own future.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily operation that includes a newspaper, website, magazine and multimedia. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to pendulum@elon.edu 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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College Republicans Chairwoman: Tillis stands for right values

Editor's note: The Pendulum reached out to both College Republicans and College Democrats and had not received a column from College Democrats at press time.

Election season is here. Many students are now familiar with the names Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., and N.C. House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-N.C., from television and radio advertisements. We know that these candidates are fighting for the Senate seat, and it is an extremely close race. While both candidates are accused of having many shortcomings, it is time to recognize what Thom Tillis really stands for.

Tillis wants to decrease the size of the federal government and protect the liberties of North Carolina residents granted by the Constitution. As a former businessman, Tillis understands that the private sector is better at facilitating job growth and supporting small businesses. One of Tillis' other goals is to fully repeal and defund ObamaCare. He wants to reduce the costs of health care through private sector solutions.

Tillis supports the Second Amendment and respects our veterans. He plans to show this appreciation by offering quality health care to veterans and maintaining veteran benefits. Balancing the budget is another goal. In his years serving as Speaker of the House, Tillis has spearheaded efforts to balance North Carolina's budget, leading to a decrease in the state's debt. Tillis believes in the "Cut, Cap and Balance" concept — spending will be cut now, spending will be capped in the future and a balanced budget will be required each year.

Tillis values the traditional family structure and is pro-life. This means that he will not only protect the lives of unborn children but also support individuals throughout their life. Promoting accessibility to education and encouraging an environment that fosters job opportunities are priorities for Tillis.

He encourages all citizens to pursue their personal American Dream, as he did. He did not proceed straight to college after high school. Instead, he worked in a warehouse and received his degree over the duration of 16 years. Eventually, he became a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Tillis understands hard work and values initiative, which is expressed through his policies.

Usually foreign policy does not equate into voters' calculations for the midterms, but recent polling shows that foreign policy is one of the top issues for North Carolinians. Tillis believes U.S. borders should be closed for the security of U.S. citizens and disagrees with amnesty. He thinks border patrol agents should be provided with the materials to effectively protect the border.

In the past few months, ISIS has become a threat to national security. They are beheading Americans and increasing their control over territories throughout Iraq and Syria. Earlier this year President Obama called ISIS "JV," and Sen. Hagan missed numerous Armed Services committee hearings. She is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities and never called for a public hearing on ISIS. Sen. Hagan even skipped a meeting for a New York City cocktail fundraiser. Until this fall, ISIS was the perfect example of an "emerging" threat — now it's a full-blown threat.

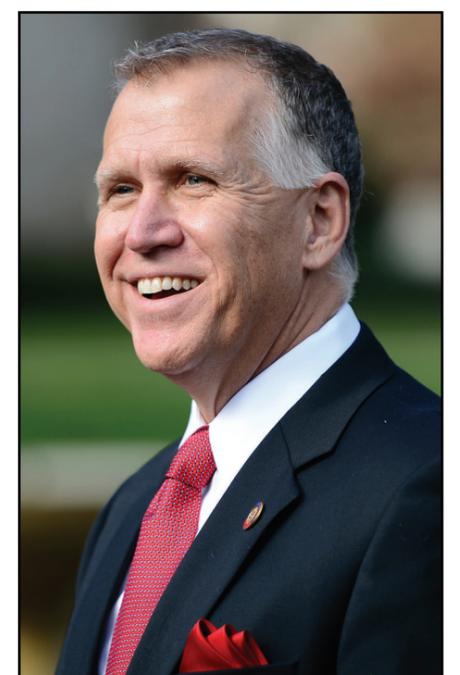
The United States needs senators who take international threats seriously and are willing to educate themselves so America can have a plan rather than react at the last minute. President Barack Obama and Sen. Hagan have second-guessed America's standing in the world. ISIS is growing,

Russia has invaded Ukraine, Ebola is a public health concern and America desperately needs effective leadership.

Based on Sen. Hagan's record and Tillis' vision for North Carolina, the candidate of choice is clear.



Julia Mueller
Guest Columnist



Thom Tillis, current Speaker of the House for North Carolina, campaigns throughout the state.

UNC fraud questions university commitment to quality education

For the past five years, rumors have circulated about a conspiracy concerning the academic integrity of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In



Tim Melton
Columnist

the past, these issues seemed relatively minor, which helped to keep the university's prestigious reputation intact.

But a recent independent report on the school's academic proceedings show the problem to be anything but insignificant.

Kenneth Wainstein, a former federal prosecutor hired by UNC to investigate the depths of the suspected academic fraud, published the report. The results were staggering: in almost 18 years, at least 3,100 students were placed in special classes that gave A's and B's for

minimal to no work. Referred to as "paper classes," these shortcuts were created especially for academically struggling student-athletes in order for them to maintain the minimum GPA required to play for the university.

Rightfully so, Wainstein's investigation has already led to plans for several changes within UNC's faculty and academic policies, but it's clear that such an incident will not easily be forgotten.

It will likely take more restructuring before the school can even come close to mending its reputation. Even then, there's no doubt that some of those involved, especially those close to the university, will ever be able to move on from this.

At first, the paper classes were attributed to only two professors, who created hundreds of paper classes designated as "GPA boosters." But, Wainstein found in his investigation that many of UNC's head coaches were at least aware

of the paper classes and knew that student athletes were undeservedly receiving the grades they needed to continue playing.

While it's terrible that professors paid by their university to promote a beneficial learning environment orchestrated the cases of academic fraud, it's more upsetting that students went along with it.

Even though this has been happening for nearly 18 years, if students had any concern for the consequences of cheating, they never showed it.

This doesn't necessarily mean we should blame the students for going along with the deception. Considering the deprivation of these students from quality education, one might even go so far as to call them victims. It still seems that this could have all been avoided if the athletes had come forward from the start, rather than enjoying the free ride through college.

Instances of these kinds of fraudulent

behavior in other universities only make me more appreciative of Elon's Honor Code.

It makes us a community built on trust — the beliefs not only that our professors will always provide a challenging yet enriching curriculum but also that students will speak out when their educational requirements are not met.

An interesting aspect of this situation is that while those involved in the creation and maintenance of paper classes were certainly acting dishonestly, they did so for the short-term benefit of both athletes and the university.

There are probably student athletes at every university, even our own, who struggle to balance the pressures of academia with those of playing sports.

Perhaps we can take this incident as a sign that more should be done to aid these students, so the measures like the ones taken at UNC do not become the standard response.

Elon athletics in need of wrestling program

It is the oldest sport in the world. It has stood the test of time, seen all the ancient Olympics as well as all 27



Ailee Ballard
Columnist

modern Games and created just as many memorable success stories as the other great sports. It is, without a doubt, one of the purest forms of human physicality in the world of athletics.

So why does Elon University not have a wrestling team?

Clearly, it is a worthy sport. There are 222 wrestling teams in the NCAA, encompassing all divisions, and there are more than 10,000 high school boys' teams in the United States. Enrollment in these programs is high across the country. One would think that, with about 5,600 undergraduate students, Elon could find around 30 students to fill the roster of a school-sponsored team.

It's not a matter of funding. Wrestling is among the least expensive collegiate athletic programs to fund, with the total cost of operation for an NAIA team's season (without coaches' salaries) averaging \$33,000. Although the cost may be higher for an NCAA school, it does not even begin to compare with the millions of dollars spent on sports like football every year.

Collegiate wrestling can bring in money for the university. According to the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA), collegiate wrestling is usually among the top five programs in revenue production for the NCAA Championships. Low cost coupled with high revenue sounds like any college's dream.

Alongside the obvious financial profits, there are numerous other reasons to start a wrestling program at Elon. For starters, the school would benefit in having more athletic programs overall.

With only seven male and nine female

varsity teams, Elon leaves something to be desired in its options. Although there are 24 club teams that provide more opportunities for students to become involved in athletics, there is still room for a new sport.

While starting a club wrestling program would greatly improve the athletic opportunities for casual wrestlers at Elon, a varsity team would allow students to improve their skills with a professional coach. However, it would help the university as well.

The presence of a school-funded team would mean that Elon could offer more athletic scholarships to prospective students, which would make the university more affordable and attractive to more students, thereby raising enrollment and providing incentive for those students to begin their education here.

Plus, wrestling is not a sport for only men. Women's wrestling programs have risen in popularity tremendously in recent years. According to the NWCA, women's participation in high school wrestling programs has increased from around 800 in 1994 to more than 6,000 today.

Although there is not yet an NCAA program for women's teams, 24 universities in the NAIA division sponsor teams, and the number continues to rise every year.

In the end, the creation of a wrestling team is one that deal with the financial benefits for the university. If we succeed, the rewards will be considerable for everyone.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Vegans and vegetarians crave more options

As countless celebrities and passionate advocates spread awareness of vegetarian and vegan diets, the shift to more



Kate Nichols
Columnist

natural eating has spiked across college campuses. For this very reason, Elon University should accommodate more diverse food options.

Green World at 1889 has taken into account the needs of students, featuring vegan and vegetarian options such as soups, pastas and black bean burgers. Still, this is just a fraction of a dining hall out of the 3 on-campus dining halls that take these students into consideration.

If students choose to eat a vegan meal at Lakeside, for instance, the plethora of food choices from various countries limited to essentially french fries and salad. Most meals at this location contain meat or dairy, and its vegetarian station is oftentimes filled by foods for those with gluten intolerance or other dietary restrictions.

So while students may have one dining hall option, if they want to eat anywhere else on campus, they must make do with lettuce and starch.

Elon brags about its "healthy food options" and "fresh produce" that is available to students throughout campus, but most of these foods contain meat or dairy. Vegetarians cannot eat most sandwiches or soups because they contain meat. Vegans struggle even more to obtain proper protein levels and eat well on campus.

One option that the university could enact is allowing students to get out of meal plans, regardless of where they live on campus.

As of now, Elon requires all first-year students to purchase an All Access + 14, All Access + 7 or All Access Basic meal plan for the year. These plans can



ANNA ZWINGLEBERG | Staff Photographer
Greenworld is one of the few options for vegans and vegetarians on campus.

cost up to \$3,855 per semester. Sophomores, as well as upperclassmen living on campus, are also required to have at least a 200 Block meal plan, depending on where they live.

This means that students are paying thousands of dollars per semester for limited food options.

The university has made exceptions for sophomores in the past, allowing them to live off-campus so that they are not confined to a limiting meal plan, but what about students who choose to live with their friends in a residence hall or an on-campus apartment?

Also, some students are required to live on-campus because of various scholarships and grants. What the university has not done so far is simply allow students to opt out of meal plans if they have legitimate reasons.

There are many different ways the university could address this issue. At the very least, lowerclassmen forced to have a meal plan should be allowed to choose a less expensive option, regardless of whether they live in a residence hall that requires an all-access plan.

More options in dining halls would be beneficial and most likely make students more inclined to want a meal plan in the first place.

'Titanic' sails confidently in capable hands

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

For those looking to attend "Titanic: the Musical" to get a glimpse of Jack Dawson or that famous "French girls" drawing scene, they will be sorely disappointed. James Cameron's epic film and this musical may share a setting, but the similarities end there. But stick around, and you will find yourself dazzled by a breathtaking score, the emotional depth of the performers and a story that is timeless despite its familiarity.

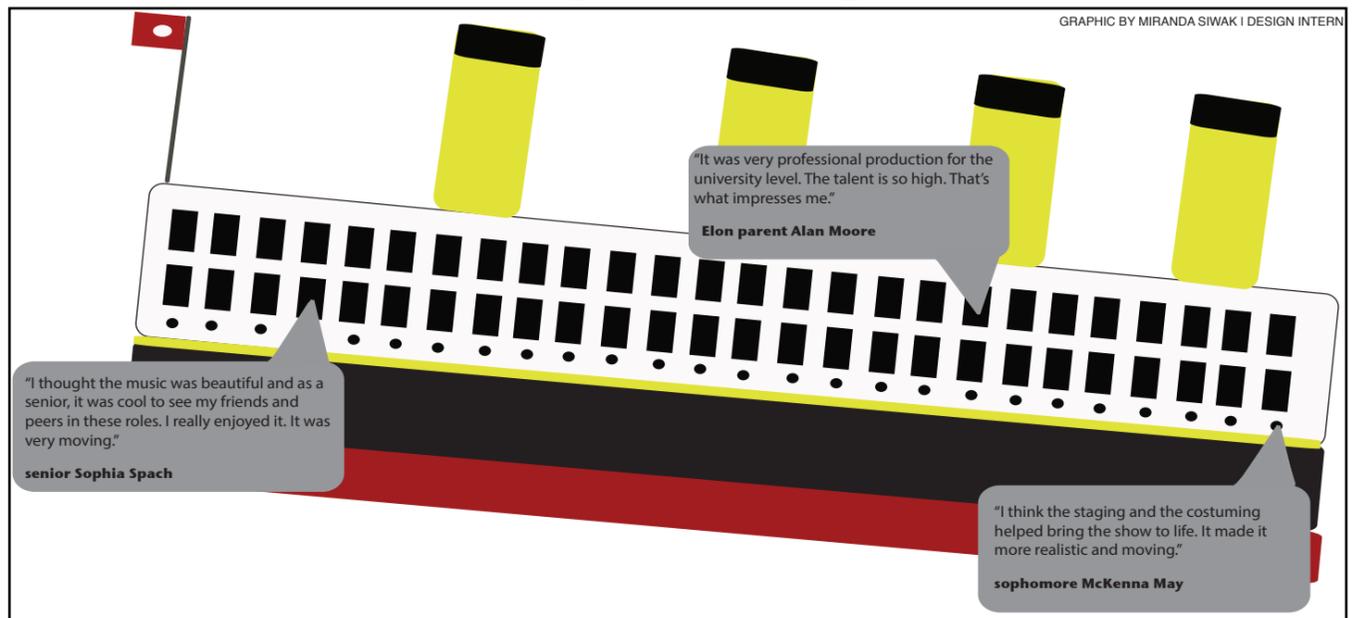
The immediate standout of this show is the music. The score is reflective not of the action of the show but rather the emotional state of its characters. Most of Act I's songs possess whimsy and a dazzling hope at the privilege of sailing on such a monumental ship.

By Act II, while some songs ("Wake Up, Wake Up!") carry that fearful edge as the crew members rouse the passengers, others ("Dressed in Your Pajamas in the Grand Salon") reflect the oblivion and partial denial of the passengers who would not understand the severity of the tragedy until it is too late.

In this way, the audience is treated as another passenger — the audience members know what will happen, but the music sweeps them into a place where they truly believe that these characters may get what they want.

The characters become the audience's guides and friends throughout the span of the musical, and each presents something anyone can connect to.

The audience follows second-class passenger Alice Beane's girlish excitement to be within arm's reach of billionaires, Ida



Strauss' stubborn loyalty to her husband that leads to her death, and First Officer Murdoch's immeasurable guilt that maybe he, the highest ranking officer at the time of the crash, could have done something different.

The characters play at the audience's own hopes and fears, making it that much harder to see some of them go.

Condensing an 882-foot ocean liner to fit on McCrary Theatre's stage is a daunting feat, but the designers of "Titanic" pulled it off gracefully. They designed a large outer wall, which moved either to focus the drama on the captain's deck or to reveal the happenings within decks of the various classes aboard.

What's difficult as an audience member for this show is the pre-existing knowledge. From one of the first scenes, when White

Star Line chairman J. Bruce Ismay talks about making headlines, the audience audibly groaned, because they all knew where this voyage was headed.

That doesn't stop "Titanic's" enthusiastic cast from drawing you in and making you believe in their dreams of rising above their station for a better life in America.

Only when you take a minute to think does it hit you again that many of these same charming characters won't make it.

This voyage is a clear metaphor for the American dream. America is that great beacon that welcome the cast to better days, and after seeing the irrepressible hope of these characters, it's devastating to see their dreams slip away as the ship goes under.

The musical relies on the emotional devastation: families being separated by the life boats, the Strausses proclaiming their

love for each other in the face of imminent death and the three leading men — chairman Ismay, shipbuilder Thomas Andrews and Captain E.J. Smith — fighting about who is to blame.

It may not be as potent as actually seeing people drown, but after the emotional investment put into the characters throughout the show, these little moments are enough for the audience.

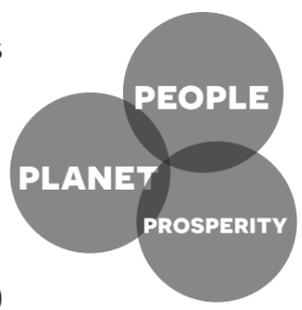
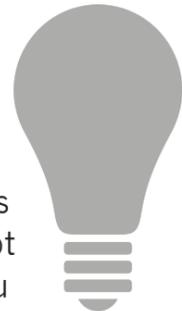
"Titanic" leaves the audience with one final scene. The survivors reprising the opening song — words once full of hope and promise, now hollowed from tragedy — as a running list of lives lost are projected onto them.

Those aboard the Titanic show the audience victims of tragedies are more than names, and we should be careful to remember that when we depart from this journey.



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ELON UNIVERSITY

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For more info, contact Dr. Kevin O'Mara at omarak@elon.edu or Prof. Scott Kelly at skelly25@elon.edu or visit the Doherty Center website at elon.edu/dohertycenter

Abracadabra: Is this your card?

New student introduces magic to Elon

Bryan Anderson
Senior Reporter

Alexander Bergelson can be seen around the Elon University campus with cards in his pocket and tricks up his sleeve. After 11 years of perfecting his magical abilities and learning a new language, Bergelson looks forward to sharing his talent with Elon students and faculty by creating an original show on Elon Student Television (ESTV) and by giving live performances.

Bergelson first developed a passion for magic growing up in Moscow. When he was seven, he watched a magician perform and was more impressed by how the tricks were executed than the outcome.

"I wanted to learn the secret," Bergelson said. "Upon learning the secret, I realized that magic is more than trick cards or sleeves or gimmicks or props. It's about psychology."

When Bergelson began performing in Russia, he had to quickly adapt to a new life. At 14, when his stepfather received a job transfer, he moved to Chapel Hill. One of the first problems he experienced was learning a new language.

"I went to middle school a week after I came to the United States, so I had no idea what people were saying," Bergelson said. "I really had to adjust by learning from people around me and learn by being in that culture."

Despite this obstacle, Bergelson learned how to speak English and to appeal to American audiences.

Instead of presenting elaborate stunts, Bergelson's area of expertise is in close-up magic. Many of his tricks involve sleight of hand, a technique that secretly manipulates ordinary props, such as coins and cards.

For one of his most impressive acts, he borrows a dollar bill from a spectator's wallet. Once he gets the bill, he slides his

fingers across it and removes some of its printing. Within a few seconds, one of the stamps on the bill goes missing. Because the dollar bill can no longer be used, he magically transforms it back into its original form.

Bergelson's RA Ryan Harrington has had the opportunity to see him perform lots of tricks.

"He's pretty incredible as far as the close-up magic that he does," Harrington said. "Every time I see him, he's got some kind of new trick that he's pulling out."

Although Bergelson refused to reveal the secrets behind his tricks to non-magicians, he admitted the psychology has a significant impact on execution.

In addition to watching magicians perform, he also studies magic by networking with other professionals in his industry. When visiting Magic Castle, a Hollywood nightclub for magicians and magic enthusiasts, Bergelson met with people who shared his passion and motivated him to be a professional.

"A great man who I think influenced me to become a professional is Mark Alexander Gibson," Bergelson said. "He is the youngest magician to have been accepted to Magic Castle, and we went to the same high school. I think he is the one who really influenced me and pushed me into becoming a professional."

Another source of inspiration is Tomas de la Cruz, also known as Smoothini.

Smoothini competed on the most recent season of the NBC hit show "America's Got Talent" and advanced to the semifinals. Today, Bergelson and Smoothini communicate with each other via Skype to exchange their ideas.

Because Bergelson is a full-time student at Elon, he hasn't been able to return to Magic Castle for a few months. Nevertheless, he plans on returning in the near future. Meanwhile, he is focused on sharing his talent locally.



First-year Alexander Bergelson will practice magic in a newly created ESTV show. HALI TAUXE-STEWART | Staff Photographer

In order to spread the joy of magic to others, Bergelson regularly performs in the local community. In addition to performing in Chapel Hill, Durham and Burlington, he will be showcasing his talents to Elon students.

He is currently working on developing a new ESTV magic show that has yet to be named or piloted.

"It'll be a show about the history of magic, psychology of magic, and there will be a lot of magic on the show itself," Bergelson said. "I'll be doing magic for people around the campus."

Bergelson first came up with the idea to create a show when thinking of ways to take his magic to new levels to different audiences. Although he has experience

with stage and street magic, he has never done television magic. After finding out about the pitch process and sharing his idea, he got approval for creating a pilot.

"I have a team [that includes] a producer, post-production designer, two cameramen and a sound designer," Bergelson said.

While Bergelson prepares to launch his new television program, he continues to look for new opportunities to showcase his talents.

This Halloween at 8:30 p.m., Bergelson is scheduled for an on-campus mentalism show, which features psychokinesis, telekinesis and telepathy, at the Irazu Coffee Shop inside of Moseley Center.

French Film Festival portrays glamour, social issues of fashion

Ally Feinsot
Senior Reporter

Cameras flashing. Front row packed with celebrities, editors and icons. The elegance and grace of models. Gorgeous clothes created by visionaries. This is Paris. This is French fashion.

Assistant professor Sarah Glasco's French Cinema class decided on the theme of fashion for Elon University's fourth annual French Film Festival, inspired by Paris, one of the fashion capitals of the world.

"My class wanted to choose a theme that was lighter on the surface, while being accompanied by controversial topics that would lead to intellectually enriching conversations," Glasco said. "Paris runway and fashion is a big part of French culture, but within these specific films are more complex topics, such as the LGBTQIA community."

Three films will be showcased at the festival, held Nov. 4-6 to coincide with National French Week. "Mademoiselle C," a documentary, examines former Vogue Paris editor-in-chief and stylist Carine Roitfeld, as she creates a new fashion magazine. "Coco Avant Chanel (Coco Before Chanel)" tells the story of Coco Chanel before she founded her legendary fashion house. "Yves Saint Laurent," is a drama that focuses on the height of famed French de-

signer Yves Saint Laurent's career.

Senior Vaughn Vreeland, whose passion for the industry drove him to push for this specific topic, recommended promoting fashion as this year's theme.

"We hoped to go on a route that a lot of people would find relatable and interesting," Vreeland said. "We wanted to expound upon fashion's profundity and pose the question, 'What are the social implications of fashion?'"

"THE BEAUTY OF THE LANGUAGE IS SEEN IN THE FILMS WE ARE PRESENTING AT THE FESTIVAL."

EMILY HACKMAN
SENIOR

Senior Emily Hackman explained that the festival has previously focused on more controversial topics, such as relations between France and Africa.

"We wanted to go a different, more fun and lighthearted route, while still being able to explore underlying social issues," she said.

Each night of the festival will feature

speakers that have a wealth of knowledge on the topics discussed in each film.

Matthew Antonio Bosch, director of the Gender and LGBTQIA Center, and Paul Geis, associate director of Study Abroad will address the audience before the screening of "Yves Saint Laurent." They will be discussing human rights advocacy and LGBTQIA rights.

Glasco said she has been deeply impressed with her students throughout the two-month planning process.

"This whole festival is student-run. They chose the theme, films and speakers. They dealt with budget costs, contacting distributors of the films," she said. "It's really been a fantastic community building exercise, where they can learn skills that they will be able to take with them beyond their years at Elon."

The complexity of French culture, beyond the element of fashion, is examined through film and cinematography in Glasco's course.

"They are analyzing cinematography and stylistic techniques and discussing everything that goes into making a film, not just simply watching movies and being able to follow the French dialogue," she said.

"Our course's theme is food, so we have been analyzing films that encompass the French's love for cuisine. I love the cultural

aspect of food, as well as the French language," Hackman said. "The beauty of the language is seen in the films that we are presenting at the festival."

Vreeland added that French national pride is another focus of French culture.

"You don't normally think of pride when qualifying a particular culture," he said. "Food, music, fashion — those are what people associate the term 'culture' with. I think that underneath every individual aspect of French culture lies this innate sense of pride."

After the three-day festival, Glasco hopes her students will recognize the value of their careful preparation and planning.

"I hope my students can see the fruits of their labor and find that perseverance, hard work and collaboration are the keys to success," she said. "I hope that they, at least momentarily, inspire and enrich the spectators who come see the films and engage in intellectual discussion."

Vreeland said he wants attendees to appreciate the glamour of French fashion and understand its underlying themes.

"We hope to draw huge audiences because we really want to not only expose the beauty of French culture, but also show that there are great social implications in this industry than what lies on the surface."

From Africa to America: Elon brings two students back together

Catie Willett
Senior Reporter

They say distance can bring people closer and even make the heart grow fonder. Two Elon University sophomores, Valeria Rizzi and Nathaniel Henderson, are living proof as they formed their relationship in high school in Morocco, maintained it after he moved to Texas and are continuing it while sophomores at Elon.

For Rizzi's sophomore year of high school, her father signed into an expatriate job that caused them to move to Morocco. An expatriate job—one that entails moving to another country—and moved the family to Morocco. Rizzi soon learned to love the culture of Morocco.

"Life in Morocco is very different from here. It's the complete opposite because here it's really quiet, there it's really loud and chaotic," Rizzi said. "There's so much more life in a sense, because here you don't hear people laughing as much on the street. They're a lot happier and more relaxed people as a whole."

Rizzi's stay in Morocco lasted until she completed high school. That was a relatively long time compared to other expatriate families, like that of Nathaniel Henderson who only stayed for a year.

Henderson is originally from Houston, Texas. Also an expatriate, he found himself in Morocco the same summer as Rizzi for his sophomore year of high school. The two met at an American school with two other expatriates.

"We all just hung out together, more than with the Moroccans. They'd all been with each other since preschool, so they don't bother making friends with expatriate kids at a certain point," Rizzi said.

Since expatriate children typically only stay in a country for a few years, the

natives don't make much of an effort to build relationships with the temporary residents. As a result, the four expatriate students, including Rizzi and Henderson, stuck together. They began dating in Morocco, but for Henderson to take Rizzi on a date, their date options were minimal.

"There wasn't much to do because I didn't have a car there and it's not safe," Henderson said. "We went to the beach for the day or maybe a cafe, but we didn't really get to go on what you would call a date until [we came to] Elon."

After Henderson's sophomore year of high school in Morocco, he returned back to the United States. The couple decided to continue their relationship from Morocco to the United States. The couple kept in touch through skype sessions, as

"SOMETIMES IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT WAS WORTH IT. BUT I'M GLAD WE DID."

**NATHANIEL HENDERSON
SOPHOMORE**

well as summer visits to the United States to see Henderson and Italy to see Rizzi.

"It wasn't easy," Rizzi said. "It puts so much more pressure, since you never see the person, you feel this pressure to make any kind of meeting count."

Senior year of high school, Valeria and Henderson teamed up in the college search.

During one of Rizzi's summer visits to the United States, the Henderson family introduced her to several American col-



Valeria Rizzi and Nathaniel Henderson continue a relationship they formed while in high school in Morocco. HALI TAUXE-STEWART | Staff Photographer

leges. The majority of the colleges they visited were in Texas, where Henderson resided, but they also toured schools in North Carolina, one being Elon.

After waiting to hear the decision on their collegiate futures, the two were both accepted to and independently decided to attend Elon.

A new challenge arose for Rizzi with a transition from Moroccan culture to that of the United States.

"You definitely experience culture shock. I came straight from Morocco," Rizzi said. "It was kind of hard because my family is still there. That was the hardest thing because they're my support, but at least he [Henderson] was here."

Even with culture shock, Rizzi was not alone. Henderson had similar feelings as Rizzi since he spent several summer's abroad.

"Even after leaving the country for just a year you experience culture shock. The way of life is different, things are much

slower there, too," he said.

At Elon, Rizzi and Henderson have found their own niches and passions.

An entrepreneurship major, Henderson has a business in the works and is also interested in world events and news.

As a French major, Rizzi is involved in the French LLC and is also a biochemistry major. She hopes to one day earn a PhD and become a genetic engineer.

Since both even live in the Global Neighborhood, the distance is no longer a challenge for their relationship. "It's less stressful here. It's kind of cool because we don't have two totally separate lives and we have mutual friends," Henderson said.

As the two continue their relationship at Elon, they reflect back on the challenges an overseas relationship brought.

"It was tough, but it was worth it," Rizzi said to Henderson.

"Sometimes it didn't feel like it was worth it," Henderson teased back. "But I'm glad we did it."

Will you trick or retreat?

Pros and cons of Halloween at college are weighed



Audrey Griffith
Reporter

Halloween has been a part of U.S. culture for as long as we can remember. Target has been stocking its shelves with a plethora of candy corn, fake spider webs and pumpkin spice Glade candles since the end of August. Society is ready for the spooky night.

What does Halloween mean on a college campus? How does Elon University approach this haunted holiday?

Some engage fully in Halloween, while others are over it.

The buzz around campus is what to "be." Students take on different roles for one night, or a span of nights, each year and seem to love it. Some take the humorous approach, others take the scandalous approach, but in general, all are out for a good time.

There are trends in Halloween culture at Elon. Just as most holidays here do, the celebration starts earlier and ends later than just the day. Halloween has become a season in the world of nightlife. People bring out their costumes nights in advance and continue through the very last bits of Halloween weekend. Last year, people were clad in costumes from Tuesday to Saturday even though Halloween itself was on Thursday. This seems to reflect a desire for change and

excitement in the Elon nightlife scene. People enjoy the variety in the seemingly monotonous scene.

Not only does Halloween find itself at parties, it is clear in other realms of campus. For example, the staff of Acorn has taken careful consideration to decorate the establishment fully. Witches adorn the windows and little "BOO!" signs decorate the sandwich and muffin cases. In passing, the employees were actually heard asking customers about their plans for Halloween more than a week in advance. This holiday brings excitement and suspense to not only the students, but also to the staff at Elon. It adds a change that spices up the sometimes-repetitive "Elon bubble" in a very social way.

The perceptions of Halloween vary from student to student. Some find dressing up for almost a week of nights is excessive. Others, however, like senior Sammy Bellamy don't appreciate Halloween's presence at Elon.

"As a senior, Halloween bores me," Sammy Bellamy said.

Other students have sought Halloween fun elsewhere.

"I always go to Chapel Hill for Halloween. Franklin Street always has so many people and it's always a good time," senior Matt Ferretti said. "Everyone should do it

once during their time at Elon."

Many take Halloween into their own hands by going-off campus to pumpkin patches, the North Carolina State Fair and other attractions to enter the spirit of Halloween and autumn. They enjoy the spooky decorations, endless supply of pumpkins and caramel apples galore that Elon lacks.

There is spirit for Halloween at Elon, however, if you look for it. Many Greek organizations come together and dress in a particular theme for Halloween. For example, organizations have joined forces to dress as each of the 50 states and animal pairs from Noah's Ark. Creativity certainly comes out during Halloween at Elon. It is a fun, unifying time to collaborate on a costume.

The presence can be seen on residence halls and in the homes of our students. Some students head to Michaels and decorate their rooms with skulls and pumpkins. Many even buy silly cobwebs. Some students have talked about Pinterest crafts for Halloween. People really get into decorating for the season, something that will probably continue throughout the holiday season.

Elon itself has celebrations and ways to get into the spirit through the. The greater Elon community also has opportunities to get into the spooky season with events like the Food is a big thing for all college

campuses - students love good food. Many Greek organizations hold philanthropy events throughout October that sell caramel apples, pumpkin bread and Pillsbury cookies with the little jack-o-lanterns on them. Elon students get into the fall spirit and help different philanthropies through these events.

Even on campus jobs try to get into the spirit. At the student Phoneathon, students have Halloween treats such as caramel apple Milky Ways and pumpkin cookies to get them through the shift. Supervisors of the shift use the season to make the job more enjoyable.

There is a vast variation of how students approach Halloween on Elon's campus just compared to the real world. Some students plan their costumes weeks in advance, truly excited for the evening. Some decorate and bake endlessly. Others seem to barely notice the holiday is coming up. It depends on the students' level of involvement. Some don't have time to fit the excitement into their daily schedule but they do look forward to a change in night life.

It will be interesting to see how Halloween takes over Elon in the upcoming weekend. It falls on a Friday, meaning students will kick-off their weekend with a variation of Halloween celebrations.

Banged-up offensive line struggles under pressure

Matt Mallian
Assistant Sports Editor

A structure without a solid foundation will crumble.

The offensive line on a football team is a structure like any other. The O-line needs to perform as the most cohesive unit on the field or else the pocket will crumble, and passing will become difficult.

The Elon University football team has seen its young offensive line have trouble gelling at times throughout this season. Elon has tried different combinations of players among the five-person clan, with several players rotating positions on the line.

Elon's offensive line perhaps struggled the most against the University of Richmond Oct. 25. The Phoenix surrendered seven sacks to a team that had nine through their first seven games alone.

"I thought the matchup of our O-line to [Richmond's] D-line was one that I was concerned with," said Elon head coach Rich Skrosky. "There's a couple times you take a shot, protection breaks down because you're trying to get the ball down the field, and that was kind of the basis."

Elon's linemen faced a strong duo in Richmond senior Evan Kelly and sophomore Winston Craig, a pair that Elon junior offensive lineman Thomas McGuire called, "Probably the best combo we've seen on the inside all year."

Consistency has been tough to find, as five different combinations of starting linemen have been trotted out on the field in eight games. Redshirt freshman Ikenna Nwokeji, a left tackle, is the only lineman on the team to have started every game this season.

Senior Austin Sowell, the most experienced of Elon's offensive linemen, has started only four games this year. He has dealt with a shoulder injury, and broke his hand in practice Oct. 22 leading up to the Richmond game.

"It's hard to get consistency when the offensive line is where we're at right now," Skrosky said.

Sophomores Ty Alt and Gordon Acha have been thrown into the fold at times out of necessity, but the unit still hasn't performed up to par. McGuire has started each of the last four games at center with Sowell out.

"The offensive has to run like a sewing machine, as five guys that have to know



Elon's offensive line has been slowly maturing all year under offensive line coach Damian Wroblewski. Here, Austin Richardson recovers a fumble vs. Richmond.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

everything that's going on," McGuire said. "Early in the game [against Richmond], we were really struggling with that offensive line. In the second half, we were able to make adjustments, and I think the pocket was a little bit stronger than it was in the first half."

When Elon made the transition to the Colonial Athletic Association this season, Skrosky said the tough, physical brand of football in the league would present a challenge for the offensive line.

"That's a position we knew coming into the year was going to be a struggle," he said. "And then you add on some of the injuries that we've had. You're mixing and matching. There's going to be some matchups where you're going to be out-personelled. I think up front is probably the biggest area where we've got to improve and I know that will continue to come."

With 23 sacks given up through eight games, the Phoenix is the fourth-most sacked team in the CAA. It's an area of concern for an offense scoring 12.4 points per game.

"It's not close to where we need to be," McGuire said.

Dropped passes, among other inconsistencies, have plagued the offensive unit, but it all starts with the foundation — the offensive line.

"It's hard obviously," McGuire said. "It's hard to keep people going on the sideline. We keep reminding ourselves, 'keep your heads up.' I don't have a magic potion. If I did, I'd sell it. Just got to keep working. That's all we can do."

Four games remain in the season, and the road doesn't get any easier for an offensive line that is not getting any healthier. During the next two weeks, the Phoenix will travel to Towson University and the College of William & Mary, two of the top four teams in the CAA in sacks.

"We just need to get the ball rolling as an offensive line and just keep working and keep playing and look forward to going out on the practice field to get better," McGuire said. "I can't wait to get back out there on Tuesday and keep working on my craft."

Previewing Elon's game at Towson



—Towson is 3-5 overall and 1-3 in the CAA. The Tigers are coming off an open week, and beat Delaware 24-17 in its previous game.

—The Tigers started the season 0-2 with losses to Central Connecticut State and West Virginia but rebounded with victories over Delaware State and North Carolina Central.

—The two common opponents between Elon and Towson are Delaware and Stony Brook. While the Tigers beat Delaware, Elon lost to the Blue Hens 34-24. Both teams lost to Stony Brook, the Phoenix by a 20-3 decision and Towson 14-3.

—Towson went to the FCS National Championship game last year, where it fell 35-7 to North Dakota State. The Tigers, led by running back Terrance West, who is now with the Cleveland Browns, beat Fordham, Eastern Illinois and Eastern Washington to reach the final.

—Towson is second in the CAA in red zone defense and has forced three turnovers in the red zone.

—Darius Victor anchors the Tigers' running game. He's carried the ball 153 times for 797 yards and eight touchdowns while averaging 99.6 yards per game.

—Connor Frazier has pioneered the offense at quarterback, completing 114 of 200 passes for 981 yards with five touchdowns and four interceptions. He's also rushed 107 times for 350 yards and a pair of scores.

—James Simms leads the Towson defense with 77 total tackles. Towson's Ryan Delaire leads the CAA with 10 sacks.

—The Tigers lead the CAA in punt return average and also have attempted the most onside kicks of any team.

—Rob Ambrose is in his sixth season as head coach of Towson. He's won two CAA titles and won 36 games.



Elon backup quarterback John Loughery was sacked six times by the Richmond defense. Elon's offensive line allowed seven sacks as a whole during the loss.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Elon runner Luis Vargas leads pack on, off course



Elon senior Luis Vargas has won all four races he's ran this year and is in place to earn All-American honors this season. He'll lead the Phoenix at the CAA Championships in Boston Nov. 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON ATHLETICS

Bryan Anderson
Senior Reporter

Regardless of his results, Elon University senior Luis Vargas is constantly striving to be the best he can be both on and off the cross country course. He is one of the fastest runners in the country, but it's his trust in his coach and teammates that puts him ahead of the pack.

"Having the support from my team helps a lot," Vargas said. "Having them cheer out there [on race days] and knowing that I have them to back me up is the driving force to not giving up during the race."

Vargas has won all four events he's competed in this year and has garnered four CAA Runner of the Week awards. He's setting himself up for an All-American honor during his last year in a Phoenix uniform.

Vargas competed at the NCAA Pre-Nationals Oct. 18 and finished first with a time of 24:20.3 in the 8K men's white run. Although his time was four seconds slower than his personal best, he held the eighth-fastest time among all men's races at the tournament.

He also won the Elon Invitational

Sept. 13, the Adidas Challenge Sept. 19 and the Notre Dame Invitational Oct. 3.

Head coach Nick Polk has been pleasantly surprised by how much Vargas has grown over the course of the past two months.

"Every week, I have my idea of what he'll do at the national level, and it gets about 10 spots higher than I thought it was going to be the week before," Polk said. "He continues to improve and impress everybody around the country."

Vargas said he's happy to receive CAA honors and recognition, but he is concentrated on the task at hand.

"My main focus is making sure our team does its best," Vargas said. "After that, I'll have my eyes set on Regionals, placing there and hopefully going to Nationals."

As he prepares for the CAA Championships, which is scheduled to take place Nov. 1 in Boston, he inspires his teammates to follow in his footsteps.

"I say this at practice, 'If you want to know how to be good, look at Luis,'" Polk said. "Luis loves Elon and runs as hard as he can for Elon, for me and for his teammates. That's something that's really hard to coach. It's really a natural benefit that

he has inside of him that makes him a better runner."

While some players may focus purely on self-improvement, Vargas invests himself into a team mentality. After finishing a race, he'll offer support to everybody else.

Off the track, Vargas can be found at the campus dining halls eating and talking with his teammates. On the weekends, he will occasionally play board games and watch movies at his teammates' homes.

Senior teammate Ari Rothschild has had the opportunity to get to know Vargas over the course of his time at Elon and form a strong relationship with him.

"We've just become better and better friends on the course and off," Rothschild said. "It's been great to work with him these last four years."

According to Vargas, his relationship-oriented approach to success stems from his family background. Because he is close to his parents, siblings and immediate family, he learned how to communicate well with loved ones. His genuine care for others transferred into his college running career.

"I'm out there every day with the

guys," Vargas said. "They're my family. I've grown so close to them."

Despite Vargas' success thus far in the season, he often overworks himself. Since he constantly looks for areas that need improvement, Polk has to find the balance between pushing Vargas to be one of the best runners in the country and making time for him to rest.

"He always wants to do as much as possible, and my coaching of him is more so not letting him do all that he wants to do," Polk said. "Finding that line between pushing Luis to be one of the top guys in the country, but not pushing him so hard that he ends up injured or sick [is the challenge]."

Vargas said it's difficult to believe how fast his time at Elon has passed. Nevertheless, he has established goals that he'd like to accomplish after graduation.

After the season, Vargas plans to continue training with Polk in order to build on his achievements.

"Right now, I'm an accounting major, and hopefully I can go to grad school to get my master's in accounting or business," Vargas said.

Follow The Pendulum's sports staff on Twitter @pendulumsports.

Elon resets goals in search of first CAA win

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

The crowds had cleared out, the opponent was about to leave and basketball hoops were already set up in Alumni Gym.

And the Elon University volleyball team was still in its locker room.

Halfway through the conference season and still without a victory, some self-evaluation was needed as the Phoenix saw its losing streak increase to nine after a three-set loss to College of Charleston.

"Starting the second half, we're going to be seeing teams for a second time," said Elon head coach Mary Tandler. "We had to re-establish some goals. Obviously, we're not happy about being 0-8 after the first half. The goal is to be the most improved team in the second half."

Elon is in the midst of its first season in the Colonial Athletic Association, a step up from its old home in the Southern Conference. The CAA has provided a steeper challenge than anticipated, and the Phoenix knows it.

"We are fully aware [of being winless in the CAA]," Tandler said. "Every game, we focus on improving. We've gotten players healthy in the last couple weeks. We're gelling together and having, indi-

vidually, some big nights. We also need more of a team effort moving forward and a little more consistency."

Elon last won Sept. 23 at North Carolina Central University. What's now become an 11-game losing streak began Sept. 26 as the team began CAA play against Hofstra University.

**"WE NEED TO
FOCUS ON BEING
MENTALLY TOUGH
THROUGHOUT
THE END AND THE
ENTIRE MATCH."**

**MEGAN GRAVLEY
JUNIOR OUTSIDE HITTER**

After losing its first four conference games, Elon lost in three sets on the road Oct. 7 by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a former SoCon rival.

During this losing streak, Elon has been swept five times and has only gone to five sets once — Oct. 24 at Northeastern University. In CAA-only stats, Elon ranks at the bottom of the conference in

hitting percentage, opponent hitting percentage, assists and kills.

So, there's a lot of work to be done.

"It's a little bit of everything," said sophomore middle blocker Ally Karle. "We're working on slowing down left sides coming at us, which would definitely be key. But there's not one specific spot in our game [that] is worse than others. Altogether, we need a team effort."

But that doesn't mean the team hasn't seen some high points along the way.

Of the 33 sets Elon has lost during the losing streak, 12 have been decided by three points or less. The Phoenix dropped the first two sets against Northeastern Oct. 24 but rallied to win the third and fourth to force a decisive fifth set, which the Huskies won 15-12. Elon has been in most of its sets but just can't find a way to finish.

"We're always neck and neck with them up until the end," said junior outside hitter Megan Gravley. "We need to focus on being mentally tough throughout the end and the entire match. We have the skills, we have the personnel. It's mental — we have to finish the sets."

The second half of conference play should help a bit with the team's mentality. With the way CAA play is set up, each team plays everybody twice — once

at home and once on the road.

Elon has already played all eight CAA teams.

At the start of the conference season, Elon's lack of experience playing many of the CAA teams was a disadvantage. Now familiarity could help the Phoenix as it searches for its first victory in the league.

"It helps with treating them like a rival," said senior middle blocker Kris Harris. "Now we've seen everyone once, so we're able to know that a person always hits the line or always hits cross. We pick up on their tendencies."

Karle said the team's mindset for the second half of CAA play is simple: "Let's get 'em. This is our second chance. Let's ball out."

There's a lot to be done, and the CAA opponents won't back down when they see Elon. Regardless, Tandler has seen a lot of positives from her team during this losing streak and has learned one important thing about her players.

"They have a great attitude," she said. "We're on a long losing streak, yet they come to practice every day ready to go. To me, that's very impressive. It shows the character they have."

For game recaps, features and more, visit us online at elompok.com.

'Late Night' brings anticipation for hoops season

Elon basketball teams scrimmage, entertain fans with preseason 'Late Night with the Phoenix' event

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

At last year's "Late Night with the Phoenix," Elon University men's basketball coach Matt Matheny made a bold declaration.

After strutting out with women's head coach Charlotte Smith to the popular song "One Shining Moment" — the theme song of the NCAA Tournament — Matheny took the microphone and addressed the rowdy maroon- and gold-clad supporters packed into Alumni Gym. He said it was his team's year to win the Southern Conference and earn a bid into the NCAA tournament.

A year later, Matheny was back on the same floor with the same microphone and the same enthusiastic crowd. This time, after an 18-14 season and a loss in the first round of the SoCon Tournament, plus the loss of four of the best players the program has ever seen, Matheny avoided any such prediction.

Matheny's theme of the night was anticipation and excitement, not only for the teams and the season but also for life in a new conference with different opponents and greater challenges on the horizon.

"It's a great opportunity for our program and our school," Matheny said of the CAA. "It'll only make us better and bring our program to a completely new level."

He was every bit as excited about this year's team, but he didn't make any grand statements like last year's. Instead, he encouraged the crowd to support the team, saying their support was "more important than ever" for a roster of young, inexperienced players that would benefit greatly from an emotional boost from the home crowd.

They will need it.

The Phoenix, picked last in the CAA preseason poll, will need to replace its top three scorers from 2013-2014: Sebastian Koch, Ryley Beaumont and Lucas Troutman.

They have a solid group of veterans at the guard position in seniors Austin Hamilton and Kevin Blake, and junior Tanner Samson, but Elon will need younger players to emerge around them, particularly in the frontcourt.

"We'll sorely miss last year's seniors and their production," Samson said. "But we have the guys who can fill the positions we lost and provide the production that we'll need."

Matheny outlined the team's philosophy, taken from the San Antonio Spurs, which stressed the importance of "pounding the rock," meaning practicing with relentless fire and passion with the pursuit of success in mind. When the rock does finally break, Matheny said, it would be the result of the accumulation of pounds the team has given to it over the course of the season.

The strategy, Matheny said, is a useful analogy for his team to follow in order to achieve the success they envision for themselves.

"We're an inexperienced team in a very good league," Matheny said. "We don't expect to be a Final Four team today. So what we have to do is break it down incrementally and focus on climbing the mountain and pounding the rock every day."

Smith and her team are every bit as anxious for the upcoming season as the men are, and for good reason. The Phoenix brings back most of its core from last season's 15-16 team. Although leading scorer Kelsey Harris has graduated, Smith said the team's experience mixed with an influx of young talent will be enough to



Elon's basketball teams each held intrasquad scrimmages during "Late Night with the Phoenix." HALI TALUXE-STEWART | Staff Photographer

make them a contender in the CAA.

"We're excited about the talent we have up and down the roster," Smith said. "If we work hard and stay focused, we can compete with anyone in the CAA."

The night began with both teams performing a choreographed dance routine with the dance team. After a quick warm-up session, both teams played in separate 10-minute intersquad scrimmages.

Both teams then signed autographs for the Phoenix fans who stuck around until the end.

"We really enjoy interacting with the fans and having a good time and showing them what we've been working on and how we look," said senior guard Austin Hamilton. "We know they appreciate it."

Now that the lights have been turned off and the crowd has left the gym, both teams can focus on the relentless grind of season preparation.

But for one night, the players got to take a deep breath and enjoy themselves before jumping into the deep end in early November.

Fall allows for Elon baseball positional experiments

Nick Zammarelli heads to left field, Casey Jones tries pitching during Elon's Fall World Series

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

Casey Jones hits. That's what he does, and that's what he's good at. He hit a whopping .418 last season en route to

Southern Conference Player of the Year honors.

So when the Elon University senior trotted out to the mound during the baseball team's Fall World Series, it prompted some double takes.

"I told Coach [Mike Kennedy] I could do it if we need guys to do it," Jones said. "We're a little bit lower with pitchers on our staff this year. He gave me the fall to do it, and I just went for it."

Jones is one of multiple players who are experimenting with playing a different position this fall as the Phoenix preps for its season, which begins mid-February.

Last year, Jones played mostly at first base and in left field but also saw time at third base and second base. He said he hadn't pitched since his junior year of high school, but he came in and struck out two batters in 2 2/3 innings while using a sidearm throwing motion during one game of Elon's Fall World Series.

"I like playing everywhere," Jones said. "It's fun coming out every day, seeing where I'm at on the lineup card."

But don't expect to see Jones starting on the mound on Friday nights once the season starts, Kennedy said.

"He probably won't be out there much," Kennedy said. "He's played around with that a ton since he's been here. He knows his responsibility — he's going to hit in the middle of the order, and if [pitching] gets in the way of this, he won't do that."

The fall provides an opportunity to give all Elon baseball players some options and see who works best where.

Sophomore Nick Zammarelli has played all fall in left field, where he saw some action this summer playing on a team in his home state of Rhode Island. Zammarelli played mostly third base last season for Elon, while appearing in left one game because of injuries.

Junior Joey Tomko has been playing a lot at third base after coming back from an injury that caused him to miss all of last season.

"Every intrasquad we play, [Zammarelli's] out there [in left field]," Kennedy said. "We're not as worried about third base. He'll probably play there some, but he's played there his whole life. The goal was to get him as many reps out left as we possibly could, and he's doing OK out there."

Zammarelli started 43 games in 2014 and hit .284 with 22 runs batted in. He said it doesn't matter to him where he plays in the field.

"I just want to hit, to be honest," he said. "[The versatility] shows what we have, and it's something special."

The Phoenix has four months to figure it all out before it counts. But these scrimmages and practices in the fall are valuable for creating the team's image.

"We're trying to get the best lineup we can out on the field," Kennedy said.



The Elon baseball team played a five-game intrasquad Fall World Series, with the Cardinal team winning it. RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

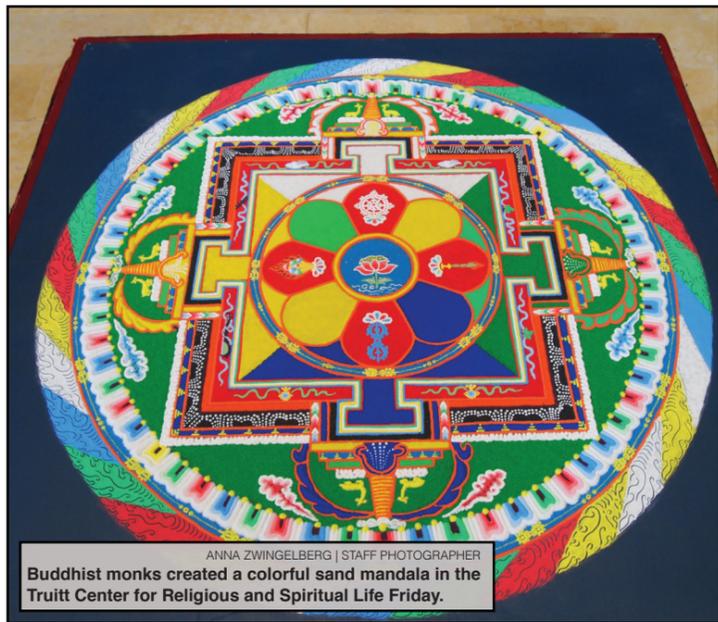
TOP PHOTOS



JANE SEIDEL | PHOTO EDITOR
Sophomore Claire Bishop hands out candy to children at Trick or Treat on Greek Street Sunday.



ASHLEY KING | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior Matt McBride uses his opponent for leverage to head the ball in the Phoenix's game against JMU Sunday.



ANNA ZWINGELBERG | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Buddhist monks created a colorful sand mandala in the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life Friday.



RACHEL INGERSOLL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elon men's baseball dressed up in their best Halloween costumes for the pregame warm-up at Sunday's match of the Fall World Series.



HALI TAUXE-STEWART | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman Collin Luther cheers on a contestant in "Late Night with the Phoenix" on Friday night.

Hagan and Fjeld: Equality, education and the economy

It's that time of year, and the midterm elections in North Carolina are drawing national attention. In the most expensive race in the state's history, the stakes are high. For North Carolina college students, these midterm elections are especially crucial.

For this year's race, certain issues, including reproductive rights, women's rights, equal pay, public education issues, the national debt, and jobs and the economy, are ones students should pay special attention to.

The platforms of Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., for U.S. Senate, and Laura Fjeld, for U.S. House of Representatives have college students' best interests.

Hagan, the current Democratic incumbent, is running against Speaker of the N.C. House Thom Tillis, R-N.C., to keep her seat in the Senate. Hagan has run with a strong focus on reproductive rights for women.

Voting against congressional plans to defund Planned Parenthood, she has stated multiple times that she is a strong supporter of a woman's right to choose and that a woman's choice should be between her and her doctor.

WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

When?

- November 4th

Poll Times:

- Open 6:30 a.m.
- Close 7:30 p.m.

Where?

- If you are registered to vote in Elon, you go to:

Elon Fire Station #2
2110 Power Line Rd
Elon, NC 27244

Check your voter registration:
https://www.ncsbe.gov/webapps/voter_search/

For reproductive rights, Fjeld, who is running for North Carolina's 6th Congressional District, is on the same page with Hagan in that a woman's health care is between her and her doctor. She said the government has no right to dictate a woman's decision concerning her health.

As for Hagan, her continued support of women's rights also includes her vote for the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which aimed to prevent domestic violence and international human trafficking.

An advocate for equal pay, Hagan's first co-sponsored piece of legislation in the Senate was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The act gives more leeway for those who believe they are not receiving equal pay and need time to provide proof of discrimination.

For a student, public education is an essential issue, especially in North Carolina. Over the past few years, the state has seen cuts on thousands of teaching positions, on arts programs and on teachers' salaries.

As a member of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Hagan has been outspoken about public education and pay for teachers. Her position on the committee gives her an inside view on the country's need for better public education funding.

Fjeld said that she stands against cuts

on schools, teaching positions and pay. Having served for the past five years as vice president and general counsel for the University of North Carolina system, she is no stranger to the importance of education.

Fjeld is also focusing on creating more jobs in North Carolina and boosting the economy. She supports policies to bring businesses to North Carolina and increase the minimum wage, the latter of which Hagan agrees on. Hagan has voted in support of raising the federal minimum wage from its current \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10.

According to the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, student debt makes up 6 percent of the national debt, accounting for more than \$1 trillion from federal student loans alone.

Fjeld promotes cutting the deficit and streamlining spending. Her website states that she will oppose any budget proposal that pushes the responsibility of the debt onto children or students.

Concerning issues of the greatest importance to college students, Hagan and Fjeld are the two candidates who best represent our views.

No matter which candidate you support, vote on Nov. 4.

Have your voice heard, and have a say in what happens in your county, state and country. Have a hand in affecting your own future.

HAGAN

- + Supports women's rights to choose
- + Supports increasing minimum wage
- + Supports cutting the deficit
- + Against cuts on education

FJELD

- + Supports women's rights to choose
- + Supports increasing minimum wage
- + Supports equal pays
- + Against cuts on education

GRAPHIC BY ERIN VALENTINE | Opinions Editor

College Republicans Chairwoman: Tillis stands for right values

Editor's note: The Pendulum reached out to both College Republicans and College Democrats and had not received a column from College Democrats at press time.

Election season is here. Many students are now familiar with the names Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., and N.C. House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-N.C., from television and radio advertisements. We know that these candidates are fighting for the Senate seat, and it is an extremely close race. While both candidates are accused of having many shortcomings, it is time to recognize what Thom Tillis really stands for.



Julia Mueller
Guest Columnist

Tillis wants to decrease the size of the federal government and protect the liberties of North Carolina residents granted by the Constitution. As a former businessman, Tillis understands that the private sector is better at facilitating job growth and supporting small businesses. One of Tillis' other goals is to fully repeal and defund ObamaCare. He wants to reduce the costs of health care through private sector solutions.

Tillis supports the Second Amendment and respects our veterans. He plans to show this appreciation by offering quality health care to veterans and maintaining veteran benefits. Balancing the budget is another goal. In his years serving as Speaker of the House, Tillis has spearheaded efforts to balance North Carolina's budget, leading to a decrease in the state's debt. Tillis believes in the "Cut, Cap and Balance" concept — spending will be cut now, spending will be capped in the future and a balanced budget will be required each year.

Tillis values the traditional family structure and is pro-life. This means that he will not only protect the lives of unborn children but also support individuals throughout their life. Promoting accessibility to education and encouraging an environment that fosters job opportunities are priorities for Tillis.

He encourages all citizens to pursue their personal American Dream, as he did. He did not proceed straight to college after high school. Instead, he worked in a warehouse and received his degree over the duration of 16 years. Eventually, he became a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Tillis understands hard work and values initiative, which is expressed through his policies.

Usually foreign policy does not equate into voters' calculations for the midterms, but recent polling shows that foreign policy is one of the top issues for North Carolinians. Tillis believes U.S. borders should be closed for the security of U.S. citizens and disagrees with amnesty. He thinks border patrol agents should be provided with the materials to effectively protect the border.

In the past few months, ISIS has become a threat to national security. They are beheading Americans and increasing their control over territories throughout Iraq and Syria. Earlier this year President Obama called ISIS "JV," and Sen. Hagan missed numerous Armed Services committee hearings. She is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities and never called for a public hearing on ISIS. Sen. Hagan even skipped a meeting for a New York City cocktail fundraiser. Until this fall, ISIS was the perfect example of an "emerging" threat — now it's a full-blown threat.

The United States needs senators who take international threats seriously and are willing to educate themselves so America can have a plan rather than react at the last minute. President Barack Obama and Sen. Hagan have second-guessed America's standing in the world. ISIS is growing,

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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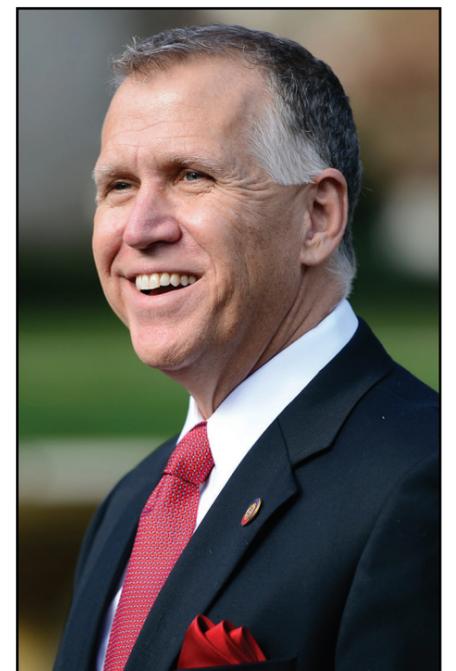
Business Manager
Lizzie Guillaume

Public Relations Director
Sophie Pearson

Webmaster
Tom Neas

Adviser
Colin Donohue

For a complete list of our staff, please visit ElonPendulum.com/staff.



Courtesy of Tribune News Service
Thom Tillis, current Speaker of the House for North Carolina, campaigns throughout the state.