

Elon dancers to perform in Dancing in the Black Box



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Kayla Agae travels across countries on path to Elon

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Republicans reign supreme

Tillis, Walker, Elmers emerge victorious



Jonathan Black, Michael Bodley, Katy Canada, Michael Papich

It was a good night for North Carolina Republicans. North Carolina Speaker of the House Thom Tillis came out on top in one of the nation's closest Senate races two and a half hours after Republican Mark Walker earned a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Walker, who celebrated at Life Community church just outside Greensboro, represented District 06, which includes Alamance County. He will replace Howard Coble who recently retired after 30 years in office.

The North Carolina Senate race has been considered one of the most important in the country, with party control for U.S. Senate hanging in the balance. Either candidate's victory would have tipped the balance of party control in Washington, D.C.

"The Democrats have proven that they are incompetent for regulating business," said Jeffrey Berlin, a Charlotte resident. "Tillis has shown that with his reform of the tax code that he has helped business climate."

Hundreds of North Carolinians came out to support Hagan, who also rallied in Greensboro, each with their own reason for casting their votes for her.

Sara Thompson, a first grade teacher at Easton Elementary School in Winston-Salem, said she appreciated Hagan's support for education.

"I work so hard because I have 19 kids that deserve me working so hard, but we don't get the support or the supplies we need from the government," she said. "I think that her focus is on education."

The race for the North Carolina Senate seat was among the closest and most expensive in the U.S., with more than \$100 million spent between the two campaigns. Two-thirds of that money was spent by outside groups.

When voters arrived at polls on Tuesday, there was no clear indication of who had the majority. The latest Elon University Poll had Hagan leading Tillis by a margin of just 4 percent. Hagan maintained a slight lead over Tillis throughout the campaign, despite a late surge by the Republican candidate.

Supporters of Tillis who came out to the election party at the Omni Hotel in Charlotte were optimistic at the beginning of the night.

"Hagan's tough," said Justin Stewart, a Charlotte resident who was at the hotel. "I believe in the voters, and if we're still in charge, we'll do alright."

Others were convinced Tillis' experience



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PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

(Clockwise from top) Republican Mark Walker celebrates winning the race against Laura Field for representative of U.S. District 06, as his family watches on. Walker replaced Howard Coble, who served as representative for thirty years. (2) Mary Tiger, with her child, Caroline, casts her ballot at Perry Harrison Elementary School near Pittsboro. (3) Incumbent Republican Renee Elmers waves to the crowd after beating Clay Aiken in the race for representative of U.S. District 02.

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ELECTIONS

from cover

as North Carolina's Speaker of the House would serve the state well.

"To me it all comes down to record," said John Stewart, Chairman of the 9th district for North Carolina GOP. "In four years, Tillis has passed tort reform, corporate tax reforms, corporate tax code. Hagan, in the past six years, all she has done is be the deciding vote on Obamacare."

port from more seasoned politicians. Bill and Hillary Clinton endorsed Hagan, while Tillis re-

endorsement from former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Throughout the race, Hagan portrayed herself as a moderate candidate, though she received continued support from President Barack Obama.

This resonated with some North Carolinians, like Jill Kazura, a former state employee.

"Hagan is moderate, and she's willing to listen to all sides," Kazura said. "That's something we haven't seen in a while. This stalemate in Washington has got

ized on Hagan's alignment with Obama on 96 percent of the issues including the Affordable Care Act, as something that would negatively impact the state.

Libertarian candidate Sean Haugh hovered at about 4 percent of the vote throughout the evening.

Other races

Walker and Fjeld faced off to replace former U.S. representative Howard Coble, who recently retired after 30 years in office. Walker led the race early on and maintained his advantage right up until polls closed about 8:15 p.m.

With 16 percent precincts accounted for, Walker was declared winner with 59 percent of the vote shortly after the polls closed.

Voters came from across the state to celebrate with the candidates they supported. John Trymosky, a Rockingham County

resident, drove 20 miles to support Walker and to work in the polls Tuesday.

"His ideas to make changes in Washington were very positive," Trymosky said. "He's going to be a terrific congressman."

Republican Renee Elmers won the seat for the 2nd Congressional District over Democratic candidate Clay Aiken. She took 59 percent of the votes over Aiken's 41 percent.

There were a couple of victories for Democrats as G.K. Butterfield won the 1st Congressional District, which encompasses most of northeastern North Carolina, over Republican Arthur Rich. Democrat David Price also beat out Republican candidate Paul Wright for the 4th Congressional District, which includes Orange, Durham and Wake County.

Additoinal reporting by Hali Tauxe-Stewart, staff photographer.

"I BELIEVE IN THE VOTERS, AND IF WE'RE STILL IN CHARGE, WE'LL DO ALRIGHT."

**JUSTIN STEWART
REPUBLICAN FROM CHARLOTTE**

ceived support from John McCain and Lindsey Graham as well as an to stop."

The Tillis campaign capital-

Latest Elon Poll emphasizes tight race
A surprising shift toward gay marriage opposition occurs

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

With midterm elections slated for Tuesday in North Carolina, the latest Elon University Poll shows incumbent Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., ahead of her Republican challenger, N.C. Speaker of the House Thom Tillis. But the lead is a slim one.

"The rule of thumb is, if you really want to be 95 percent confident about the outcome of an election, you need about a seven-point difference," said Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon University Poll. "Right now we're at a four-point difference."

The Senate race has come down to a statistical tie that has tightened significantly over the year. Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon Poll, said Tillis has been able to get better name recognition, which has improved his chances.

"He's campaigning full-time now," Husser said. "Over the summer, he had to split time between campaigning and working as Speaker of the House."

As anyone in North Carolina who's turned on a television or watched YouTube knows, campaign ads have showed up all over this fall. Tillis is the target of the most attack ads in the country at the moment, with Hagan the eighth-most attacked.

Husser added that negative ads have a strategic benefit for campaigns.

"Scholars say people remember negative things more. If you're campaigning, you want to keep your name and your opponent's name in the voter's head," he said. "You can say something positive about

yourself, but that's easier to spin."

Fernandez said it's possible that too many negative ads can lead to voter apathy, but he doesn't think that's going to be the case in this election.

"I would predict that turnout in this election will be higher than in the 2010 midterm because so much money is being spent," he said.

Shift in gay marriage

Elections are unpredictable because big news items can interrupt established narratives, and the 2014 election is no different. Ebola, ISIS and same-sex marriage have been part of campaigns and debates across the country, so the Elon University Poll asked North Carolina voters how they feel about these topics.

One of the biggest surprises in the poll comes from an uptick in opposition to same-sex marriage, with 50 percent now opposed and only 39 percent supporting. Husser attributed this to the recent news from the Supreme Court that legalized same-sex marriage in North Carolina and the magistrates who resigned over it.

"I think that finding is a blip and we're not seeing a long-term trend away from support for same-sex marriage, which we've seen growing statewide," he said.

Husser said it's possible that putting same-sex marriage back in the news will help Tillis by invigorating more voters to go to the polls, but when the latest poll asked voters what the most important issues were, "same-sex marriage did not come up at all."

Instead, foreign affairs were import-

ant to both Hagan's and Tillis' supporters. When asked what the United States should do about ISIS, 43 percent of respondents said air strikes and ground troops should be utilized, while one-third said only air strikes.

Only 15 percent of respondents said no military action should be taken.

Fernandez said framing ISIS as a political issue should help Republicans, but not necessarily now.

"In the long run, it will help because ISIS and national defense questions draw away from women's issues and education, which North Carolina republicans have not been doing well on," he said.

In other issues, an outbreak of Ebola remains a concern for many. A patient was admitted to Duke University Hospital late Sunday night for suspected Ebola, but preliminary test results Monday were negative.

On average, North Carolina voters said there was a 31 percent chance of an Ebola outbreak affecting 100 or more Americans. Hagan voters thought it was a 23 percent chance, and Tillis voters thought it was a 38 percent chance.

When asked how voters feel about the Affordable Care Act, 48 percent of respondents thought the law will make the health care situation in the state worse. Despite efforts to tie Hagan to the law, polls have her on top of the issue.

"In 2010, people were losing sleep over it. Not so much now," Fernandez said. "And a lot of people are not voting for it to be repealed. They just want to modify it."

Husser said the Supreme Court's decision in the Hobby Lobby case — about

whether a private company has to fund contraception — has also made the law more palatable for social conservatives, and there have not been any major issues with the law, such as issues of crashes and programming problems during the site's initial launch in 2013.

Who votes, anyway?

Hagan saw a six-point drop in self-identified independents who say they are voting for her, according to the poll. But, Husser said, true Independents who do not lean either way are rare, making up about 1-in-10 voters.

"If we cut it down to true Independents, Hagan is getting more," he said. "But true Independents are usually not very sophisticated and have less political knowledge, so they're unpredictable."

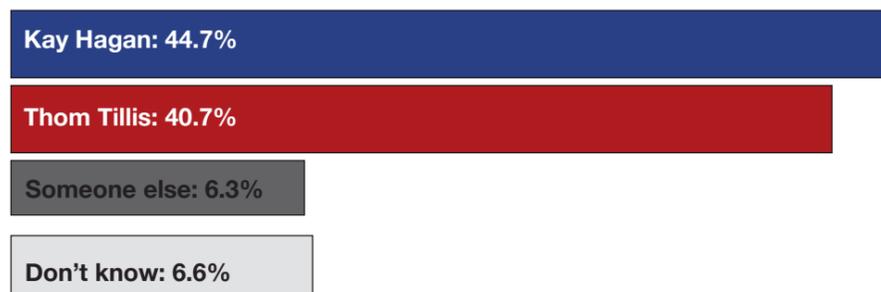
The 2014 election is also the first election where some of the voting reforms go into effect in North Carolina. While photo I.D. will not be required until 2016, same-day registration is no longer an option.

"There is a considerable amount of data showing same-day registration gets a lot of votes, so that could really hurt turnout," Fernandez said.

But Fernandez also said the summer's Moral Mondays protests may also help turnout, as well as what appears to be a boost in early voting this year.

The midterm election between Hagan and Tillis is widely-regarded as the closest in the country. For North Carolina, the state's future as either red or blue hangs very much in the balance of the results.

996 adults were polled from Oct. 21-25, 2014 and asked whom they would vote for in the NC Senate race. The results were as follows:



Results from the Nov. 4, 2014 NC Senate race are as follows, with 96% of precincts reporting (as of 10:47 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2014):



Elon tries to better include non-religious

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

Elon University prides itself on being a leading school when it comes to religious inclusivity. But at a panel discussion Oct. 30, students and faculty were asked whether Elon could do more to support community members with no religious views.

The event was put on by the Spiritual and Religious Life Committee, who posed the following question to those gathered: How can we as a campus better include and support atheists, agnostics and those who indicate “none” for religious preference?

“It’s like asking, ‘What kind of a barber does a bald person need?’” said Tom Arcaro, professor of sociology at Elon, who is not religious. “That’s the nut we’re trying to crack.”

Junior Jensen Roll disagreed with this assessment.

“All students need to have access to similar resources, and creating communities where people feel safe is part of that,” Roll said.

Senior Mary Rouse said, as someone who does not hold religious views, parts of life at Elon can be off-putting.

“Every time there’s a prayer or invocation at an event, I feel excluded because a big assumption is being made about how the people there identify,” Rouse said. “Even if it was non-religious, what do

they add that’s so important they need to exist?”

Rouse pointed to the large number of staff other religious groups have on campus, but said she and other classmates of hers who share her views aren’t necessarily looking to join in with other faith-based Elon organizations.

“We see it not so much that we want to be included, but we don’t want to be excluded,” she added.

While student groups like the Student Secular Society exist at Elon to try to create a community for the non-religious — though no members of the group attended the meeting — the committee chair, Diane Ford, said faculty and staff, not students, requested this topic be examined.

Lost in translation

Those who attended the meeting were given sheets asking questions about Elon’s inclusivity for non-religious and secular individuals, like how is Elon already successful in this area and how can Elon improve.

“We could be more purposeful in our inclusion,” said Johanna Janssen, director of clinical education for Elon’s physical therapy department. “When I think of discussing religious and secular issues, I think of the Truitt Center. But it’s all titled ‘inter-faith’ or ‘multi-faith’ and that’s exclusionary.”

Multiple panel members talked about

how words like “multi-faith” and “spirituality,” while meant to include atheists and others of a similar worldview at Elon, end up turning people away.

“Nurturing spirit can be a can of worms, but we can do that through belonging to a community,” said Jane Welford, professor of performing arts. “It doesn’t have to have an ethereal quality.”

Diana Abrahams, multi-faith and intern coordinator at the Truitt Center, said faith in particular is a word people have trouble with.

“Other organizations have used terms besides faith that are school-specific, like ‘worldview,’” Abrahams said. “A lot of our issues are language issues.”

Avoiding exclusion

Martin Fowler, lecturer of philosophy, said the goal of promoting inclusivity for secular and non-religious members of the Elon family should be to provide the same things religion can bring — a sense of community and respect — without things like ritual, ceremony or faith.

“It’s not impossible, but we need to find a way to bring it across campus,” Fowler said.

And this requires a lot of thinking and ingenuity, as Brian Pennington, director of the Center for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society and professor of religious studies, pointed out.

“There are ways in which you can de-

fine words like spirituality in non-theistic ways, but that doesn’t mean the word doesn’t hold certain connotations,” he said.

Arcaro said there are still parts of Elon’s secular community, like the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, that make him feel excluded because of their theistic messages.

“It’s off-putting and alienating and to be saying something that doesn’t fit with what I know feels hypocritical,” he said.

However, when discussing the elimination of parts of Elon’s community like invocations at major events, Arcaro said these could take away something from religious people on campus.

“We have a wonderful community of strong believers and anything we do to make them feel uncomfortable is absolutely the wrong approach,” he said.

Ultimately, some discomfort arises from these conversations over religious and secular life not happening, as many meeting members said.

“I think there’s a little fear in the classroom by teachers and students and that could be opened up a little more,” Welford said.

Going forward, the Spiritual and Religious Life Committee will look at the discussion at the meeting and the voice of the community to see how non-religious people want to be included and focus on finding solutions that make everyone in the situation happy.

Stanford professor discusses political divides in US federal legislature



Doug McAdam from Stanford University visited Elon to talk about the growing political divide in the United States.

Kimberly Honiball
Senior Reporter

As midterm elections swing into season, a visitor from the West Coast chose an apt time to speak to an Elon University audience about the growing political divide in the United States.

Professor Doug McAdam from Stanford University visited Elon Monday evening to talk about the growing political divide in the United States legislature and the current threats to democracy in America that he discusses in his recently co-authored book, “Deeply Divided America: Racial Politics and Social Movements in the Post-War Era.”

“When former President Jimmy Carter said America no longer has a functioning democracy, people thought he was crazy,” McAdam said. “But when a former president says we are no longer a functioning democracy, we best pay attention.”

McAdam noted that political factions after World War II were more likely to

pass legislation and agree to compromise on issues than political parties now. The Democrats’ and Republicans’ political views were more likely to be moderate, so they could discuss options in a more civil manner rather than pit each other against one another as they do now.

He cited the Civil Rights Movement and the white backlash that followed as reasons that have led to political gridlock in the system today.

“The pressure the [divide] puts on the federal government is unrelenting,” McAdams said.

Both the Democratic and the Republican parties were relatively moderate on their viewpoints during post-war times, but as the Civil Rights Movement put more pressure on the parties to exact action, Republicans became progressively more conservative, and Democrats became increasingly liberal, McAdam said.

“The political landscape in the United States has been transformed,” McAdam said.

He presented evidence of legislative

dysfunction by citing an increase in filibusters in the past 40 years and the general lack of passing bills or legislative actions.

“This one is a doozy,” McAdam said. Fewer than 300 legislative actions have been passed by congressional sessions in the last year whereas nearly 2,000 actions were passed in the post-war period.

McAdam’s closed his speech by mentioning the declining level of political equality due to new restrictive voting laws and unfair voting advantages in parties due to gerrymandering.

“This may be the most systematic national effort to restrict voting rights,” McAdams said about the new voting laws.

“We want students to vote in the state where their vote will count most, so why shouldn’t students be able to vote in the states they are essentially living in.”

McAdam made it clear that he was trying to be unbiased towards parties while giving this talk and that both par-

ties were at fault for the decline of effective democracy in the nation.

“What makes it very different these days is that there is no cooperation between the parties,” McAdam said.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Department of Political Science and Policy Studies, The Turnage Family Faculty Innovation and Creativity Fund for the Study of Political Communication and the Council on Civic Engagement worked together to bring McAdam to campus to inform students about what the current American democracy resembles.

“It was interesting and informative,” sophomore Alyssa Potter said. “I think it raised some good points. I definitely didn’t know about the shift in democracy being that dramatic.”

McAdams urged students to take action in politics whenever possible.

“These threats are serious,” McAdam said. “They pose a real danger to our democratic way of life.”

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LGBTQIA Businesses in NC are Open



Diane Groff of Durham is a lesbian and co-owner at the Other End of the Leash, a pet boutique with an in-store bakery.

SIMONE JASPER | Senior Reporter

Simone Jasper and Michael Papich
Senior Reporter and Assistant News Editor

North Carolina, like the United States at large, has gone through an unprecedented change in the past decades when it comes to attitudes toward people who identify as LGBTQIA. But like the spread of acceptance in the United States, North Carolina has not been affected evenly.

In cities like Chapel Hill and Carrboro, openly gay and lesbian officials are elected to high office. And yet, 61 percent of state voters supported a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Public officials like North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper are no longer supporting or enforcing laws that discriminate against the LGBTQIA community. But gay-straight alliances in public high schools, even in places like Orange County, are still being blocked or shut down.

Just as attitudes across North Carolina vary from place to place when it comes to the LGBTQIA community, so do attitudes toward businesses that are LGBTQIA-run or LGBTQIA-friendly.

Diane Groff, co-owner of the Other End of the Leash in Durham said she hasn't faced many challenges for being gay.

"In Durham we've had nothing but unbelievable welcome from both gay and straight people," Groff said. "We haven't seen any chal-

lenges, besides the ones we face as small business owners."

Similarly, Sharon Collins is the co-owner of Balloons and Tunes, a party store and specialty balloon provider in Carrboro. Collins is openly gay and runs Balloons and Tunes with her partner.

"We have not found that our identity as lesbians has been an issue at all in our business. I've never once had a negative experience because of that," Collins said. "We find that the thing that makes our business successful for as many years as we've been successful is that we have a product that people want. We offer service that is exceptional and people keep coming back."

Collins said anti-LGBTQIA attitudes exist in North Carolina but attributed the lack of negativity regarding her sexual orientation to her store's location.

"There's always, to me, a small subgroup of people who are prejudiced and, in my opinion closed-minded. There's always going to be that vocal minority who gets a lot of attention," she said. "But especially in the Triangle and Chapel Hill/ Carrboro area where I am, it's a very inclusive community."

In contrast, there's Replacements, Ltd., whose showroom and main headquarters are located in McLeansville, about 20 minutes west of Burlington. Replacements is the world's largest provider of china and silverware and carries complete sets of various designs, al-

lowing customers to "replace" a piece they may be missing.

Bob Page is CEO and founder of Replacements. Not only is Page openly gay, but he donated money to fight North Carolina's Amendment One and used Replacements' various electronic billboards to host anti-Amendment One ads.

"My partner and I have been together for nearly 40 years and we've adopted two sons. There are so many families like us in the state that deserve to be treated with respect under the law," Page said.

Page's open support made Replacements a singular voice among large corporations in North Carolina and the business got letters from customers saying how upset they were by the company's position and that they would never buy from Replacements again. Some forms of protest got closer than just letters, like anti-gay graffiti on part of the company's property.

"There was one woman who drove her truck to Replacements and had it parked to block the entrance," he said. "No one was hurt and she was gone by the time the police came, but for about 30 minutes, no one could get in to the store."

Businesses and history

Businesses run by openly LGBTQIA operators are relatively new in the United States.

Mary Jo Festle, the Maude Sharpe Powell professor of history at Elon University, said this didn't really start until the Stonewall Riots in 1969.

"Before, there would be businesses in the West that would be on the down-low, but people in the area would know," Festle said.

After Stonewall, there was a rise in bars, athletic teams, concert areas and especially bookstores that were run by openly LGBTQIA people instead of closeted ones. Those businesses relied on the LGBTQIA community as a consumer base and would try to provide services others could not.

"There would be bookstores that would have a tiny gay section in the back and then there would be bookstores where it would be obvious the minute you walk in that it's catering to the LGBTQIA community," Festle said. "Anyone in the neighborhood would know about it, but they'd also know who walks in, and you'd need customers who had the nerve to be seen walking in."

In this same vein, Collins said her openness about her identity has drawn business from other members of the LGBTQIA community.

"I think that on a small level, some people call on us because they know that we are gay- and lesbian-owned," she said. "We do events for gay pride. And I think that there is a loyalty in the community so that, when given the alternative, you choose someone you want to support. And hopefully members of the LGBTQIA community choose us."

For owners like Page, running a business where they are free to openly identify as LGBTQIA has other benefits.

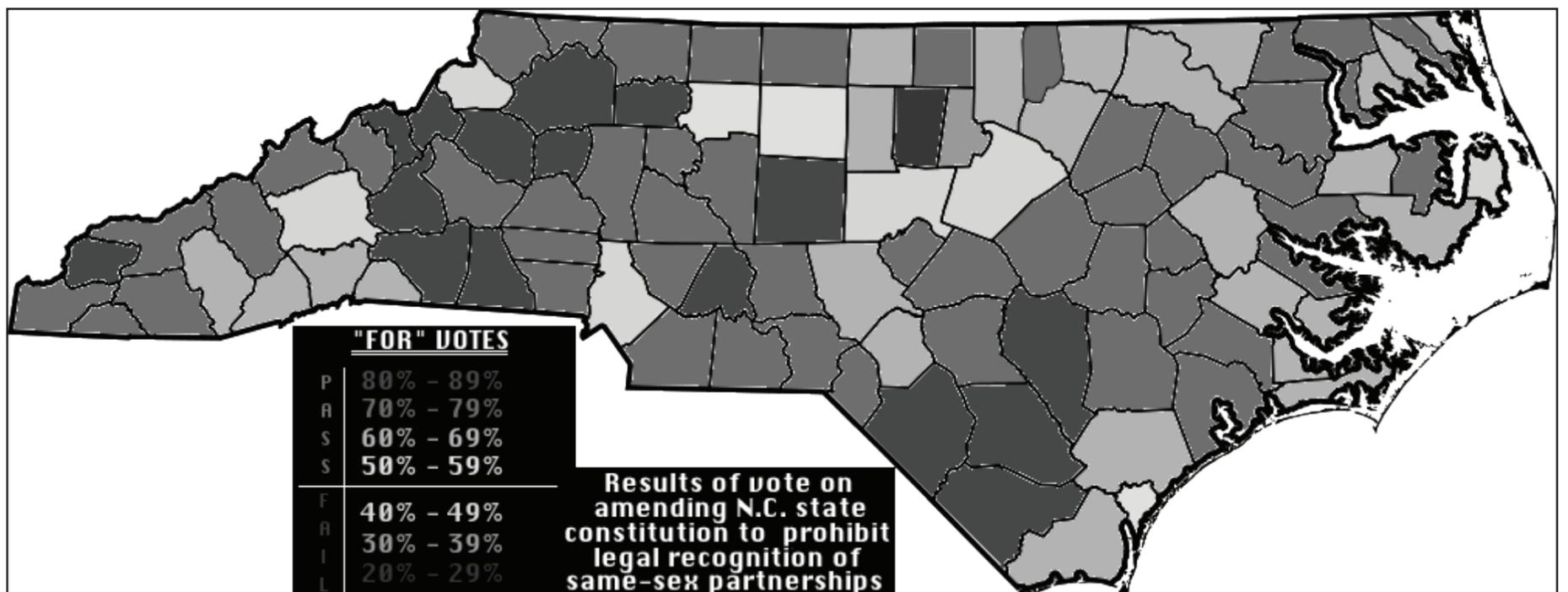
"We have many wonderful employees who are openly LGBTQIA, and I want them to not feel uncomfortable while they're here and feel like they can be themselves," he said.

In the South, the growth of LGBTQIA-owned businesses is much smaller compared to places like New York City and San Francisco. Festle said not only is the South generally more conservative as a result of the patriarchal society set up through slavery, but Southern states also have smaller cities.

"Big cities tend to have more diversity and more space for differences," she said. "It's not surprising that the South would have fewer LGBTQIA businesses and less of a community."

Page attributed part of North Carolina's lack of openly-LGBTQIA business, compared to northern and western states, to religious extremism and what he described as the "hate speech" that comes with it.

"It doesn't seem very Christian to me," he



A map of North Carolina details which counties voted for or against Amendment One, which constitutionally banned same-sex marriage in North Carolina when it passed in 2012.

Graphic courtesy of Wikimedia user Skylarstrickland

said.

Jack Whittemore, parliamentarian for the Carolina Bear Lodge, a non-profit for gay men, said he's also noticed that support for the LGBTQIA community varies throughout North Carolina.

"I live in Charlotte, and for the most part, the city has embraced the community. You find that in larger cities, but in small communities, it's different," Whittemore said.

Allied businesses

For business owners who don't identify as LGBTQIA, showing support for equality and nondiscrimination leads to a different kind of engagement.

Especially during the rise of LGBTQIA rights and visibility since the 1970s, Fes- tle said businesses who showed they were LGBTQIA-friendly were running "smart business."

"LGBTQIA owners have to decide how 'out' they're going to be. But if you're a straight business owner and are committed to equality, you want all the customers you can get," she said. "There are a lot of straight businessfolks who don't want to eliminate customers."

Noni Penland, owner of Penland Custom Frames in Greensboro, sells handmade pic- ture frames to the Guilford County commu- nity. Penland said she has been supportive of the LGBTQIA community through organi- zations like the pro-diversity Guilford Green Foundation since she first opened her doors.

"Whenever I have extra funds, I love to sup- port arts-based foundations, and the Guilford Green Foundation does great work with the arts as well as rights for LGBTQIA humans," Penland said.

Penland said her positions are well-known in the community but she has not faced push- back because of them.

"I've never had anyone question my adver- tising choices; I've never had anyone question my participation in any kind of social function that might be connected to LGBTQIA founda- tions or friends," she said.

Jay Pierce is the executive chef for Lucky 32 Southern Kitchen, a restaurant with locations in Greensboro and Cary. Lucky 32 is owned by Quaintance-Weaver Hotels and Restaurants, and part of the company's "fairness doctrine" is to support equality and opportunity for groups that have not been treated fairly, including the LGBTQIA community.

"Part of our mission statement is that we have a diversity and inclusion doctrine where- by we believe that there are certain members of society who don't get a fair shake and it is incumbent upon us to treat everyone based on ability and not predisposition," Pierce said.

Pierce said there has never been any nega- tive feedback in either of Lucky 32's locations in North Carolina as a result of their social stances or hiring practices. But Pierce also said

he doesn't think this makes Lucky 32 an outlier among restaurants.

"I've found the restaurant industry in gen- eral seems to be a lot more tolerant of diverse backgrounds than some other industries I've encountered," he said. "Maybe it's just the car- eer choices I've made. I've always worked in independently owned restaurants."

Identifying as LGBTQIA-friendly or sup- portive of LGBTQIA rights can sometimes bring businesses into a circle Pierce said be- cause of Lucky 32's social stance, they have been embraced by the LGBTQIA community in Greensboro.

"We've stated it in our mission statement that we believe in diversity and inclusion and that we'll only judge people on their ability. I think we get extra credit for saying it and not just doing it because then we can be held to account," he said. "Prominent social leaders acknowledge that we're at the forefront in our community."

Links between businesses and the larger LGBTQIA community are part of the rea- son why groups like Pride Pages and Equality NC's Business Equality Council exist. Matt Hirschy, director of business engagement and programs at Equality NC, said the council is open to any business with a policy stating they don't discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We provide resources to organizations and corporations who are diverse and want to recruit top talent in North Carolina and help them to start employee resource groups," Hirschy said. "We also allow them a space to network with other businesses that have inclusive policies as well and we try to highlight them yearly to our constituents in North Carolina."

The council was founded recently, and while larger companies like Bank of America and Wells Fargo are currently being courted, Hirschy said small businesses have been the biggest asset so far, as well as larger stores like Replacements.

"We've already had several companies step forward and say they want to be a part of this and participate in moving forward because it is something important to us and we want to make sure we're on the right side of history, so to speak," he said. "We've also had some folks who are saying, 'Sorry, we don't want to be a part of this because we don't want to associate ourselves with a social issue.'"

Customer Appeal

On Elon's campus, students seem to agree on whether a business run by openly-LGBTQIA owners would affect their decision to spend their money there.

"If they're good businesspeople and they have a good reputation, I'd be just as likely to patronize them as I would straight people," said first-year student Hagan Otto.

Some, like first-year Howard Huang, feel



Katherine Royal said she would not patronize a business that wouldn't hire one of her gay friends. SIMONE JASPER | Senior Reporter

knowing a business was owned by LGBTQIA people would make them more likely to go there.

"I'd be more likely, but I guess I wouldn't not patronize a business if it weren't," Huang said. "I believe in equal rights for everyone so I don't believe in discrimination."

Outside the "Elon bubble," Alamance County residents like Bill Jordan said a busi- ness owner's personal life would not affect his decision to patronize.

"I think if I knew enough about the busi- ness and the people to know if they're gay, I'd know enough about them to know if I like them or not," Jordan said. "And really, that's all that counts."

Alamance resident Daniqua Drayton said the area is not accepting of LGBTQIA people, but for her personally, a store owner's identity would not affect whether she went to a busi- ness.

"It doesn't matter to me who you like or who you love," Drayton said.

Penland grew up in Burnsville in Yanc- ey County, North Carolina and said, even in the state's mountains in the 1960s, she found pro-equality sentiments.

"I heard and saw in the mountains of North Carolina, as a result of the summer stock the- ater, all of these great, different ways of think- ing. But the mountains in general were proba- bly a bit slower in coming toward acceptance of LGBTQIA communities," she said. "Though, the mountains of North Carolina were one of the first areas in North Carolina to integrate, so they were ahead of a lot of other counties in North Carolina in terms of that."

For others in North Carolina, while a busi- ness being pro-LGBTQIA may not ensure their business, a company that is openly anti-LGBTQIA turns away customers like Carr- boro resident Katharine Royal.

"I can't stand the thought of giving someone money if one of my gay friends couldn't get a job there," Royal said.

Jim Adams, a Durham resident, said while it generally wouldn't matter to him if a business owner was straight or LGBTQIA, for certain issues, having someone with experience in the LGBTQIA community can be beneficial.

"I would consider a gay attorney, for sure," Adams said. "I think they're knowledgeable and up-to-date about the gay community."

While many residents tout North Caroli- na's larger cities as LGBTQIA-friendly, there are still residents, like Durham pastor Terry Schuff, who would not patronize LGBTQIA- owned businesses.

"I don't support them because I support the Bible, and the Bible doesn't condone it," Schuff said.

But Schuff added that he patronizes busi- nesses he knows are LGBTQIA-friendly, like

Time Warner Cable and Whole Foods.

Others, like Charlotte resident Jake V., agreed, saying they try to only support "Chris- tian-owned businesses" and never go to LGBTQIA-owned stores.

"I'm not against them having the right to own that business. I'm just not going to support it," he said.

Going forward

Elon students like Huang see equal treat- ment for LGBTQIA people in North Caroli- na widespread in his generation.

"I actually think we're very supportive, es- pecially Elon. I've noticed all the student body is very supportive and open-minded to the LGBTQIA community and I like it here," he said.

Students like sophomore Delaney Hinnant, while acknowledging that North Carolina still has progress to make, are optimistic the state can reach full equality.

"It's a beautiful movement. It's for a beauti- ful purpose," Hinnant said. "But in North Carolina as a whole, we've still got work to do. Just like everybody else."

While anti-LGBTQIA sentiments still ex- ist in North Carolina politics and society, peo- ple across the state see attitudes changing. Page said he is pleased with the spread of acceptance across the state in his lifetime.

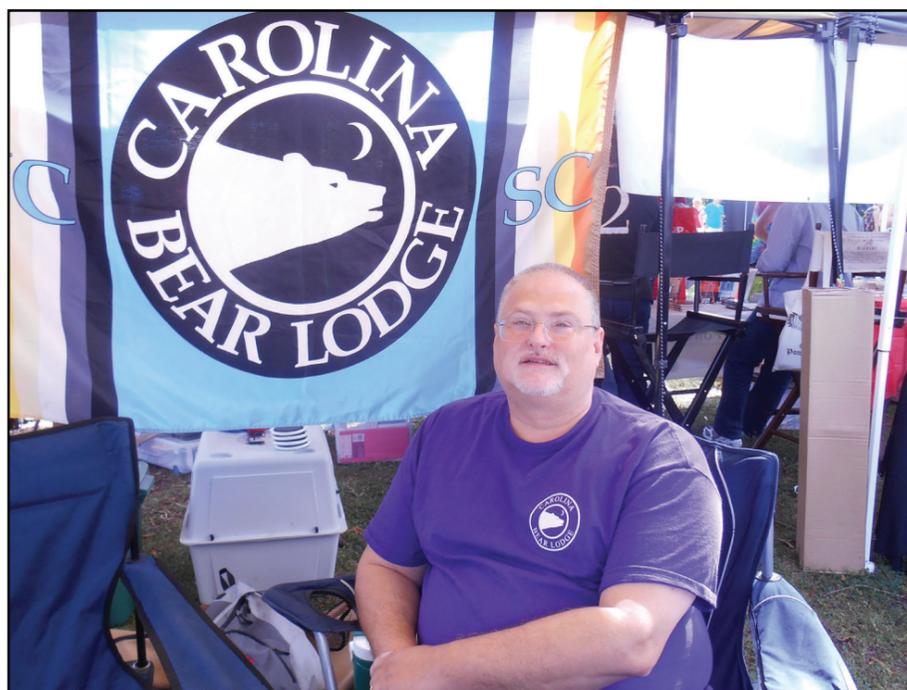
"It's not everywhere yet, but in a generation or so, I think things are going to be very differ- ent," he said.

Pierce said, among restaurants, the reac- tion against the anti-LGBTQIA positions of Chick-Fil-A owner Dan Cathy shows things are changing.

"I see more and more people that cook and serve food for a living feel a responsibility to their community — a responsibility for fair- ness — and they're speaking up more about it," Pierce said. "Ten years ago or more, the gener- al sentiment was, 'We don't want to make any enemies because everybody needs to eat.' Now the sentiment is more of, 'We want to do things the right way because we're part of the commu- nity. We're not just a place to eat.'"

Hirschy said with courts ruling against same-sex marriage bans, the next arena for LGBTQIA rights will be businesses.

"The one poignant example I point out to people is, in North Carolina, we're a 'right to work' state. You could get married, then go into work the next day and be fired for getting married. And that's completely legal in North Carolina as it stands now," he said. "There's still many North Carolinians who, even if they're able to get married someday, won't be able to celebrate the full notion of lived equality. That's why non discrimination is so important to us as an organization."



Jack Whittemore has noticed differences in the level of support for LGBTQIA business in different parts of the state. SIMONE JASPER | Senior Reporter

Cheat Sheet: Climate change



*Want a complicated news story explained?
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By the News Editors

U.N. officials met Monday to release a new report on humanity's impact on the environment, with a focus on global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said the world needs to eliminate fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas-emitting means of production by the end of the century if Earth is going to remain habitable.

Additionally, the IPCC said the world's climate goal is to limit global temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Since 1880, global temperatures have risen about 0.8 degrees Celsius. Climate scientists, as well as a report from the World Bank, have indicated that if global temperatures rise 4 degrees Celsius, that's it for life on Earth.

Since this report has come out, debates are being held among nations over other U.N. agreements to combat climate change, a fight that has been going on since long before "An Inconvenient Truth" pushed the issue into the public forum.

The first international action on climate change was passed in 1992, as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This was the first agreement among nations that greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced to prevent interference with Earth's natural environment.

The UNFCCC itself does not set any binding conditions. Instead, the agreement forms the basis for more substantial guide-

lines for nations. In other words, in the UNFCCC, all of the U.N. member nations agree that climate change from greenhouse gases must be stabilized and the protocols are the instruments through which this goal will be met.

The most well-known is the Kyoto Protocol, created in 1997, which sets mandatory guidelines for countries to follow. This includes a maximum quantity of greenhouse gases emitted and the creation of a multi-billion-dollar fund with money sent in by ratified members to work toward practical solutions for climate change.

The catch is that these mandates only apply to countries that signed the Kyoto Protocol. The United States did initially sign on in 1998, but the Senate rejected membership, so the United States remains off the list. China, together with the United States, makes up close to half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Like the United States, China also did not sign the protocol. When it became clear that Canada would not meet the threshold for lowering its emissions but had grown significantly since 1990, the country pulled out of the protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol has built-in benefits to encourage countries to stay on, namely by opening a marketplace for emissions trading. This works similarly to how "cap and trade" would work in the United States: countries that don't reach the maximum limit can trade the difference with countries that go over. If

a country does not reach the thresholds for greenhouse gas reduction, they are eventually kicked out of this emissions trading circle.

Other protocols have managed to create significant environmental benefits. The "hole in the ozone layer" is often confused with climate change, but the two are unrelated. Ozone, a molecule with three oxygen atoms, high in the atmosphere blocks radiation from the sun, but chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) break those molecules down.

The Montreal Protocol, created in 1987, brought countries together to cut down on CFC production. Since then, CFC rates are significantly down, and scientists predict the ozone layer will recover by 2050. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the U.N., called the Montreal Protocol the most successful international agreement in history.

The UNFCCC has led to other agreements about necessary changes to combat climate change, but nothing binding is in place for many of the world's largest polluters. And modern science has shown the dangers of increased temperature rise and its connection to greenhouse gas emissions by humans.

In a 2013 study published in Environmental Research Letters, of all the peer-reviewed papers on climate change looked at by researchers, less than 1 percent rejected human-caused global warming.

The future of the issue lies in figuring out just how much of an effect that rejection has on the planet.

News Briefs

Traffic and pedestrian safety campaign

Elon University Police Department will begin a two-week traffic and pedestrian crossway campaign starting today. The police will focus on aggressive and unsafe driving conditions on and around campus area in addition to pedestrian violations.

To keep track of which locations university police will be at, follow them at @ElonUPolice.

Duke Hospital patient shows no signs of Ebola

A Duke University Hospital male patient tested negative for Ebola, North Carolina state public health officials announced Monday.

The unidentified male arrived at Newark International Airport from Liberia Friday. After arriving back in the U.S. the man traveled to Person County, North Carolina Saturday via a bus and developed a fever Sunday.

He was transferred to Duke University Hospital Sunday and put in isolation for precautionary measures.

A preliminary blood test taken Monday showed no signs of the deadly virus present in the man. Another test is scheduled for Wednesday. If the test is negative, the man will be declared free of the disease.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WITH THE DOHERTY CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

TRIPLE IMPACT CHALLENGE	TRIAD STARTUP WEEKEND	INNOVATION IN AMERICA
<p>THURSDAY, NOV 6TH @ 4PM GLOBAL COMMONS MEDIA ROOM</p> <p>Participate in a student competition - grab a team and present solutions to a social/environmental issue or an idea for a start-up venture</p> <p>Teams research their issues and present them to a panel of judges</p> <p>Cash prizes will be awarded:</p> <p>1st place: \$500 2nd place: \$300 3rd place: \$200</p> <p>Sign up at elon.edu/tripleimpact</p>	<p>FRI.-SUN., NOV. 21ST-23RD ELON - KOURY BUSINESS CENTER</p> <p>Learn how to start up a business in 54 hours</p> <p>Make a pitch, build a team, develop a business model and unveil concept to judges for prizes - you don't have to pitch to participate, most don't</p> <p>SUW is designed to help communities be more entrepreneurial with over 1,500 SUW events around the globe each year</p> <p>Sign up at triad.startupweekend.org</p>	<p>WINTER TERM 2015 - BUS270 WT EXPERIENCE ON AND OFF CAMPUS</p> <p>Travel to innovation hubs in North Carolina and then to the global center of innovation - Silicon Valley</p> <p>Meet with a range of innovative companies, including start-ups, VCs, incubators & accelerators</p>

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

Astronomy and virtual reality are in the same orbit

Tony Crider's passion for space and technology uniquely implemented in his classes

Max Garland
Reporter

Tony Crider hopes one day the virtual environments he has worked on and played with his entire adult life will touch lives outside of the computer screen.

Specifically, Crider wants them to help his grandmother see his home for the first time.

"My grandmother is probably never going to leave her house for the rest of her life, except for hospitals or restaurants close by," Crider said. "She will never be able to see my house physically, but maybe she will be able to see it virtually. If she could wear a device like the Oculus Rift that would allow her to see my house, I could give her a tour of the place. That would be a great future."

Crider, associate professor of physics at Elon University since 2006, has always had a high opinion of virtual environments and their applications in the real world. He edited levels of the video game Duke Nukem 3D in graduate school just for fun. He's taught courses where students build museum exhibits online for people to explore. He's done demonstrations of the Oculus Rift, a virtual reality headset, on campus, which allowed students to explore Jerry Seinfeld's apartment and Elon's Carlton building.

But it took Crider time to realize it was even a possibility that the virtual world could transport his grandmother into his own home. He spent his college days tweaking primitive software on early computers, when technology like the Oculus Rift and programs like Second Life were a pipe dream.

New technology was the launching point for his lifelong passion.

'I just did it for the hell of it'

Crider juggled three jobs in the early 1990s while working toward a bachelor's degree in science at Bowling Green State University. Two of those jobs were a gig at the computer lab and working as a janitor at the health center on weekends. The third job was the most indicative of his future — he led stargazing sessions at the campus planetarium.

Explaining stars to the public was the beginning of Crider's career in space studies, and making astronomy work in the virtual world came soon after. According to Dale Smith, a professor of physics and astronomy at Bowling Green, Crider went to planetarium conferences and made presentations notably early in his college career.

"One of the papers he presented was called 'Ptolemy with Ptrue Basic,'" Smith said. "Of course we spelled his name 'Ptony' because of it. It explained a computer program he wrote to demonstrate the Ptolemaic model of the solar system used by the Greeks. You could see this as the start of the virtual reality work he does today."

Crider's interests in space and the virtu-

al world came even closer together when he took the gem-themed puzzle game Bejeweled and made it astronomy-themed. Replacing the jewels were tiny heads of his science professors at Bowling Green.

"It has my professors' different research areas depicted in the background, and the professors' heads were dropping down, replacing the blocks," Crider said. "If you lined up their heads properly, whatever quote they were famous for in the department would appear. I just did it for the hell of it. I wanted to see if I could do it."

Editing levels on Duke Nukem 3D and creating a modified Bejeweled helped Crider build up his skills in technology as he continued to dive deeper into astronomy. After receiving his bachelor's degree at Bowling Green, he sought to put both to good use.

"Tony has always been someone who makes things happen," Smith said. "Some people wait for opportunity to knock. Tony creates opportunities and seeks them out."

Introducing virtual environments at Elon

When he arrived at Elon in 2002, he found an opportunity to continue with his virtual reality while also teaching about the universe.

"Shortly after I got here, they had this scholar program offering incentives for faculty to try something different in the classroom," Crider said. "I decided to take a detour from my standard astronomy research and explore how I could make my classroom addictive like World of Warcraft."

World of Warcraft, the popular online video game, was the perfect storm of virtual socialization, gaming and role playing, according to Crider. He wanted to use its addictiveness in his astronomy classes to give students a reason to learn beyond what was taught in the classroom.

Crider found an ideal match in Second Life, an online world with free, open-source software and no set objective that allowed users to make the game whatever they wanted it to be.

"Someone showed me Second Life, and I felt it could help me take the fun of World of Warcraft and make it astronomy-related," Crider said. "No one was doing education like this."

Through Second Life, Crider's students made real-life museum exhibits virtual. Most of the exhibits were planetariums, although places such as the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro were also created. Open to all Second Life users, the student-created exhibits turned out to be a success, even attracting online users not associated with the class.

"They would build the places, and people would show up afterwards," Crider said. "What was weird was people would stand in lines at these student-run planetariums with their avatars. But users were at these exhibits, because people online liked the experience of learning."

The students' reactions working with Second Life were generally positive, although some mixed reviews did seep through.

"Ten percent of the students were able to dive into 'Second Life' and do really well," Crider said. "The 80 percent below that enjoyed it on a smaller scale. But there was always ten percent in the classes that had the mindset that they don't want to go online, thinking, 'It's too weird, I don't play video games and it's not me.'"

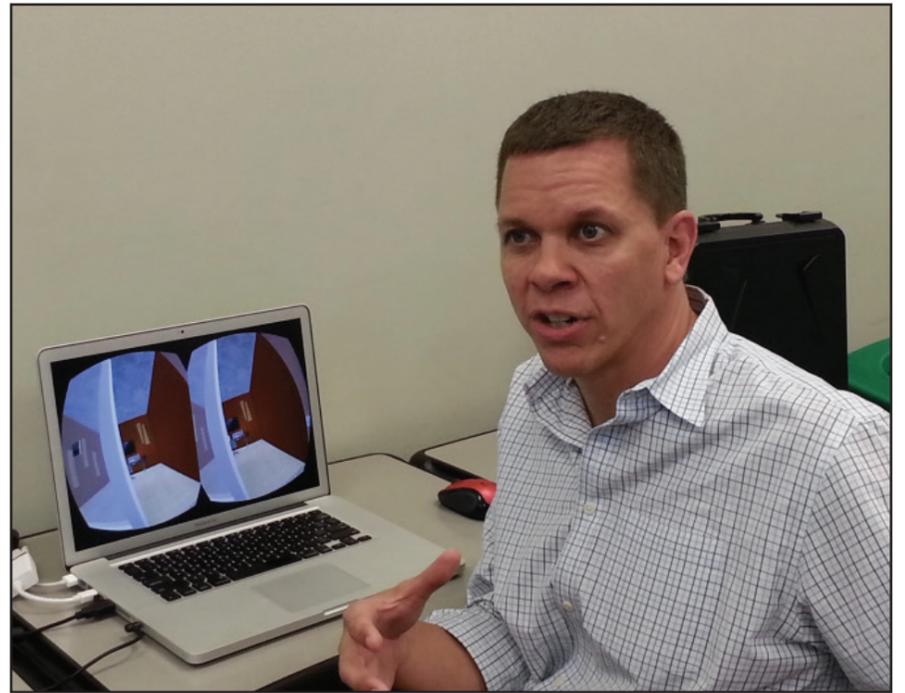


PHOTO COURTESY OF MAX GARLAND
Associate professor of Physics Tony Crider uses his classes to experiment methods of virtual reality.

That did not stop Crider from pushing the creative envelope in his other classes.

Galactic Astronomy and Life in the Universe

Katie Pullman never felt in control of her education until she took Crider's "Galactic Astronomy" class.

"It was a small class, so he basically let us design the curriculum," said Pullman, who graduated from Elon in May. "That made it more fun, and it made all of us want to work harder at the material."

Pullman said Crider showed his understanding of students.

"He is great at getting to know the person in the classroom," she said. "He sees what students excel at and pushes them to reach

farther. What he is best at is understanding his students and their interests, and that makes his courses educational and still fun."

In spring of 2012, Crider took the experimental bits of "Galactic Astronomy" and supercharged them in his "Life in the Universe" class.

"Life in the Universe" focused on the possibility of life and intelligence beyond Earth and how humans could contact them. Crider and Anthony Weston, a professor of philosophy at Elon, have co-taught the Honors course twice.

"Tony is skeptical about intelligent aliens," Weston said. "I am on the other side. I fully believe that there is intelligent life out there in the universe. It means we never agree easily when teaching the course, and students get to see both sides of the argument."

The class got to experience both sides of extraterrestrial encounters in one semester-long project. Students were split into two groups, one acting as a group of astronauts in the future and the other as an alien race called the Aurorans. The astronauts captured an Auroran for observation, framing it as a success. The aliens saw differently.

"One Auroran student refused to speak to the astronaut team after class," Crider and Weston wrote about the project in the Astronomy Education Review. "Even two days later, during a lengthy discussion of the experience, there were lingering emotions."

Crider and Weston also said members of the Auroran team accused the astronaut team of being overly hostile, beyond what would be expected of reasonable people. The astro-

naut team admitted its actions seemed hostile from the viewpoint of the Aurorans but were in fact quite representative of human behavior.

Although the class was briefly divided, it quickly got back into working order for the final exam. The only information the students got from Crider and Weston beforehand was to get a good night's sleep and show up on time.

When they entered the classroom, an 8-foot black monolith, straight out of "2001: A Space Odyssey," was the only thing in there. No professors, no instructions, nothing.

They were on their own.

The students tried everything they could think of to crack Crider and Weston's cryptic final. They took a group photo with the monolith. They touched it all at once. They looked for a second monolith on campus. Nothing seemed to work.

Eventually, the class sat down and talked about how difficult it would be for life forms in outer space to contact one another, using the monolith as an example of a possible form of communication.

Crider and Weston, not knowing how the students would react to the unconventional final, saw the discussion as a huge success.

Weston said they are looking to teach "Life in the Universe" one more time. After that, their next course could go in an entirely different direction. He said a co-taught class focusing on virtual realities and their human impact is a possibility.

Next step for virtual environments

With improvements to the Oculus Rift, Crider would be able to let students see what it is like on Venus instead of just reading about it.

"Going to the places that we can't normally go to is what makes this technology have a lot of potential," Crider said. "I think that is what a virtual world should be used for. I used to think it was more for the socialization, but my view has changed a lot."

Crider said there is still a long way to go before these virtual innovations can become reality. Some sort of breakthrough has to happen, much like it has for past technologies.

"Google and Apple began as a couple of guys in a basement not that long ago," he said. "So the technology for virtual environments that could be dominating the world right now doesn't exist yet, but it's possible. We've seen this sort of thing happen before."

When the inevitable breakthrough comes, Crider will be able to explore life-sized moon craters and show off his house with anyone around the world.

Including his grandmother.

TONY CRIDER | Associate professor of physics

EDUCATION:
Ph.D. in space physics and astronomy from Rice University

NOTABLE COURSES TAUGHT:
HNR 237 Life in the Universe
PHY 205 Galactic Astronomy

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
With his classes, Crider made real-life museum exhibits, such as the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, virtual.

DREAMS:
Crider hopes that virtual environments found in computers will come to life outside the screen.

Keeping it in the Elon family

Lifetime learners take Elon classes to pursue undergraduate degree

Brett Gubitosi
Senior Reporter

An Elon University student ambles through campus on a sunny afternoon. She is many years older than most of her classmates. Students in the class may wonder if the person sitting beside them is their classmate's mother, but she is in fact their classmate. Not only that, but she is an Elon professor's wife.

This semester, associate communications professor Glenn Scott's wife Misako Scott and assistant professor of Italian Samuele Pardini's wife Tara Pardini are taking courses on campus.

Scott has come a long way since starting Elon classes. She was born in Kurume, Japan and met Glenn Scott 19 years ago when working in her family's restaurant.

Since middle school, she dreamed of attending college, but in Japan, Scott did not have the opportunity because of her culture's strict age norms. After a career in her family's business, she was beyond the desired college age limit. Once she moved to the United States, though, she pursued a college education.

Her first college level courses were English as a Second Language classes at Alamance Community College seven years ago.

After working at Acorn Coffee Shop for four years and then working as an Aramark caterer for half a year, Scott decided to take college classes again—this time at Elon.

Scott is currently enrolled in "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" and "The Global Experience." Her academic concentration is undecided. She is not sure how many Elon classes she will take, but she does not want to bypass this chance.

"I am very thankful that Elon is giving me this opportunity," she said.

As a professor's spouse, Scott said she feels pressure to perform well in her classes. Since English is not her first language, she has struggled with reading and writing at times. She said she can perfectly translate text, but sometimes she cannot comprehend it because of unique cultural translations.

Glenn sometimes helps her apprehend these passages.

Scott said she usually spends around 10 hours a day doing homework.

"She has amazing diligence," Glenn said. "She is totally focused on this."

Despite long study hours, Scott said the experience is irreplaceable.

"Education is the key to success and a bridge to the future," she said. "A little bit of stress and suffering is good when learning."

Pardini, like Scott, is also taking classes at Elon. Pardini's husband Samuele Pardini was born in Tuscany, Italy. He moved to the United States in 1997 and met Pardini in Buffalo, New York, while pursuing his Master's degree.

Pardini has been a dental hygienist for 19 years. She received an Associate's degree from Erie Community College in 1996 and currently works at Smile Starters in Greensboro. In fall 2013, she decided to pursue a Bachelor's degree in public health at Elon.

"It's nice to have a back-up plan," she said.

Like Scott, Pardini has had her share of difficulties. She said bonding with other students can be challenging because of the age difference and because other students only get to know her through group projects. She said her expectations might be different than most students.

"I have more life experiences than someone who is 18, 19 or 20," she said. "I have to understand that there are things that are preventing me from studying as hard. Because of my responsibility to my family and job, I realize sometimes my work won't be perfect."

Pardini said her husband helps her with Moodle and class registration. Since his wife started taking Elon courses, Samuele said he sees teaching in a new light.

"It's helping me to see more things from the side of the students. I also see how much time she puts into it," he said. "In a way, it makes me a better teacher."

Samuele has lived as a Faculty-in-Residence in the Honors Pavilion with Tara and their seven-year-old son for the past four years. Pardini said their living arrangement fits her schedule well, and enjoys getting to



Tara Pardini is not only a mother and wife, but also an Elon student pursuing her undergraduate degree. HALI TAUXE-STEWART | Staff Photographer

know the honors students who live in the building.

"Both my classes are in Lindner, so I just have to walk out the door," she said.

This semester, her third at Elon, she is taking "American History Since 1865" and "How Should We Live?"

Both Pardini and Scott also acknowledged that balancing home life and college courses is a challenge.

"The stress gets bigger when the house gets messier," Scott said.

Her 15-year-old son helps her through hard times by offering words of encouragement.

Scott may not continue classes next semester because she does not want to lose focus on her family. She said she wanted to see as many of her son's baseball games as possible during the spring.

Concerning the winter term, Scott said covering so much material in three weeks' time might be difficult to follow. When she took a month and a half long history course at Alamance Community College, she was not happy with her grades.

Like Pardini, Scott's age difference is obvious to other students. But many appreciate her contributions to class and group work, like first-year student Meredith Broderick.

She was in an ethnographic research project with Misako. Broderick praised her diligence.

"She's a really hard worker and great to have in our group," Broderick said.

When the class discusses Japanese culture, Broderick said it is exciting to have Scott there.

"Many of us are experiencing the culture for the first time, but [Scott] already knows so much about it," she said.

Pam Runestad, professor of anthropology, said Scott offers a different perspective to her class.

"She's a very non-traditional student," she said. "She has had a lot of different experiences in her life at this point, being married and having a child. This is certainly different compared to the other students in the class."

Similarly, Frances Bottenberg, assistant professor of philosophy, said Pardini helps bring energy and a clear purpose to the class.

"I've had the opportunity to teach several non-traditional students over the last few years, and all demonstrated a high degree of personal investment in their learning," she said. "These students were unusual, too, in that they regularly talk to me during office hours. A lot of learning happens that way, and non-traditional students seem more aware of the opportunity it represents."

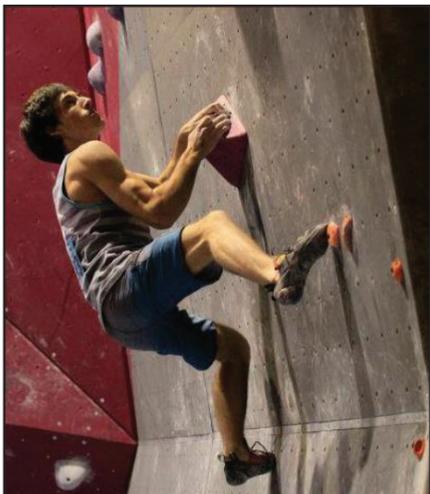
There's always going to be another mountain

Courtney Campbell
Senior Reporter

Junior Chris Coble has reached new heights.

He worked to build Helping Other People Eat (HOPE) from the ground up and is now the human services and communicator between food pantries. But his highest point has been more than 70 feet, scaling the side of a rock wall.

Coble has been rock climbing com-



Junior Chris Coble is an avid climber who has competed in national climbing competitions. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS COBLE

petitively since he was 13 years old. His passion began when he moved from Boston to Melbourne, Florida, where he had his first experience in a climbing gym. As a child Coble pulled himself through rough branches to the tops of trees and became an expert climber as an adult, swiftly moving up a wall.

"It's a passion I have," Coble said. "I just love doing it, and I often lose myself. Everything seems to slow down."

In Melbourne, Coble climbed at the climbing gym On the Edge.

He has gone on to states five times and nationals 11 times, each route becoming progressively harder.

To compete in states, participants only need to compete in three local competitions. If they score in the top six, they go to nationals, and the top four compete in the world competition.

For Coble, a competition is like chess, a mind game that requires strategy. Winning is not determined by speed, but by distance. Points are awarded for moves, surface control and positive movement. Every single movement determines first place.

A 70-foot indoor climb involves a variety of "moves." Climbers will dyno, jumping from one ledge to another in one swift motion. They will undercling, holding the

lower part of a ledge. They will slope, pinch and crimp the small pieces on the wall, gaining more points while trying not to fall.

"The more you climb, the more you know what you can do," Coble said. "You don't need to be the strongest, but be extremely strong with your own body weight. In my prime, I could do 90 pull-ups and 100 push-ups."

Rock climbing is a fringe sport, often forgotten and not widely practiced. This leaves Coble with few opportunities to climb. The closest climbing gym is in Raleigh, meaning Coble would have to drive four hours for three hours of climbing twice a week. Elon Outdoors does offer trips to Tumblebees Ultimate Gym in Greensboro, but the facility is not up to his level.

Coble has taken a climbing hiatus while in college, devoting his energy to other projects, but the passion is still there.

Last spring, Coble studied abroad in New Zealand. The driving force behind the decision to study there was the abundance of mountains nearby, an opportunity to climb again. His new backyard would be Long Beach, a space with clear water and white sand surrounded by mountains and caverns perfect for rock climbing. The view became better and better as he climbed higher up the mountain.

"I prefer [climbing] outside. It's an adventure," Coble said. "Although it's more work—you need to bring gear and find a boulder or a cliff—outside is more enjoyable."

Outside, he sport climbs. He scales a mountain with bolts lodged into its side, clips in his rope and climbs until he cannot go any farther, reaching new heights each time. This is his safest option—if he falls, his safety is assured by the last clip.

Although rock climbing is relatively safe compared to soccer and football, there is still a risk of injury, usually from human error. During one competition, Coble's foot was resting on in his rope. He slipped, and instead of falling straight down, his foot was caught, flipping him upside-down.

Despite this incident, he continues to climb.

After completing school, Coble plans to return to his previous skill level, a plan that involves three to four days of training a week.

For now, he looks at trees and buildings, strategizing how he would climb them.

"I love climbing because I love challenges," Coble said. "While I was in New Zealand I ate the world's spiciest pizza. I don't like spicy foods, but I wanted to prove to my friends I could do it."

Dancing outside the box

Dancers showcase student, faculty work in intimate performance

Diana Stancy
Senior Reporter

Dancing in the Black Box will highlight nine pieces of student, faculty and guest choreography starting Thursday. The performance is primarily composed of contemporary and contemporary ballet works.

The diversity of the choreographers plays into each piece. They range from solos, duets and trios to larger groups.

Students showing their choreography have been working on their pieces since last September while taking a choreography class. After last fall's semester, the students took some time to step away and reevaluate how to best complete their pieces.

Assistant professor of dance Jen Guy Metcalf said that this period of time was beneficial because students were able to gain alternative perspectives on their work.

She noted that students often attend summer dance programs and apply what they have learned there to their choreography.

"It gives them the opportunity to apply those ideas to their creative process," she said. "It's just helped them to develop as creative artists."

The students frequently adapt their work so it is more professional after these summer programs.

Senior dance major Caroline Bondurant will showcase her choreography. She drew inspiration from a quote from the book "The Fault in Our Stars," by John

Green: "My thoughts are stars I cannot fathom into constellations."

"I really liked the idea of turning your thoughts into constellations," Bondurant said. "So they dance in the shape of constellations."

Bondurant applied qualities she learned from her "Contact Improvisation" class to the piece, like partnering and weight-sharing through various movements.

"The hardest part was refining movement phrases," she said. "And creating organic and natural transitions into and out of contact improv-based partnering."

Senior dance major Sophie McNeill based her choreography on an interaction with her father, who asked where dinner was one night upon realizing her mother wasn't home. McNeill looked to the typical portrayals of 1950s housewife for inspiration.

"My piece explores the initial innocence of a housewife, the further mundaneness that can occur and, finally, the breakout," she said.

McNeill focused on how to develop this story into a more abstract form of art. Even so, she wanted the message to be applicable and understandable to the audience.

As a result, she chose more theatrical choreography so the message would be clearer.

"It's all about the balancing act between making your choreography easily understandable but still leaving it open for interpretation," McNeill said. "My big push last year as a choreographer was

to make art accessible and more easy to understand because I think people often leave confused after they see a dance performance."

Metcalf said she has been impressed with the quality of choreography produced by the students, adding their works were professional.

She added that she hopes the audience recognizes how developed and mature the choreography is.

She is excited her students will have the opportunity to perform their work in a professional environment and said she believes the audience will be able to perceive the qualified nature of the performance.

"They could probably notice that these students could have a professional career one day," Metcalf said. "I hope they take something meaningful away, and it makes them think when they leave the theater."



(L to R) Juniors Rachel Zain, Kara Wagner and senior Kate Phinney perform in "Dancing in the Black Box." LANE DEACON | Staff Photographer

Perfect pitch in fight against human trafficking

Ally Feinsont
Senior Reporter

West End Terrace was transformed into a scene out of "Pitch Perfect" during Stand up for Freedom Week, hosted by the Periclean Scholars Class of 2015. The concert featured Elon University's a cappella groups, gospel choir and Limelight Music Group artists. Proceeds went to the Restavek Freedom Foundation, whose mission is to end Haiti's widespread practice of child slavery.

Restavek is a Creole word meaning "to stay with." According to the foundation, it occurs when poor Haitian children are sent to live with relatives in the hopes of receiving care and education, but end up living as second-class citizens in the household.

The Periclean Scholars broke into several

committees to plan the benefit concert. Senior Omolayo Ojo's committee was in charge of public relations for the event and campus-wide education.

"This whole week has been a human trafficking and Restavek education week. We knew that we wanted to educate the campus while also raising money for our partner organization," Ojo said. "As a group, we thought the best way to raise money would be through a benefit concert, where we could combine a fun, casual atmosphere with education and awareness."

Planning the concert required much more work than anticipated, said Senior Sophia Koh.

"After contacting all of the performance groups, we had several other smaller tasks to complete, including planning the sound check

and concert lineup and reserving speakers and different types of microphones," Koh said. "Everything that we had to accomplish for the concert to run smoothly was important to complete, which is why creating committees was such a crucial part of the planning process."

Senior Rachel Shippee said choosing performers and the specific performance date was a key component in preparation for the event.

"We contacted the performance groups that we were interested in featuring, like the a cappella groups on campus who we knew would help draw a huge turnout for the concert," Shippee said. "We knew the event would occur on Halloween weekend, so that played a major factor into deciding what day the concert would be held."

Both education and entertainment were

showcased at the concert as the Periclean Scholars wanted to maintain their goal of campus-wide education of the Restavek system.

"We decided that it would be beneficial to share facts about Restavek in between each group's performance, that way we could have both spreading awareness and a

fun event at the same time," Shippee said.

The theme of freedom was chosen as the focal point of the concert, with each performance group basing their setlists on this theme.

The Periclean Scholars wanted to replicate Restavek Freedom Foundation's project called "Songs for Freedom", a music competition throughout Haiti. Ojo said different organizations, groups and schoolchildren perform songs related to the topic of freedom.

"What's really heartbreaking is that the youngest kids who are singing these songs about getting out of Restavek don't fully understand what they are actually singing about," Ojo said.

The Restavek Freedom Foundation was chosen as the Periclean Class of 2015's cause after a long process of discussing problems in Haiti.

"We chose this foundation as our class's main focus because we wanted to support a cause that involved social justice and an area that no other Periclean class has done before," Koh said. "We also wanted our local partnership to be related to human trafficking, which is unfortunately prevalent right here in North Carolina."

Ojo explained the Restavek Freedom Foundation has created a transitional home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, for young girls who have been victims of Restavek.

According to Ojo the concert attracted over 200 members of the Elon community.

"Our end goal as Periclean Scholars is to create an endowment that will allow the transitional home to take care of these girls and help nurture them for four to five years," Ojo said. "The underlying theme of the night was really for the girls and for any Haitian child who has been a victim of child slavery."



The Elon Gospel Choir performs at West End Terrace during Stand up for Freedom Week, hosted by the Periclean Scholars Class of 2015. ALLY FEINSONT | Senior Reporter

Take action against sexual assault

It's On Us campaign promotes community involvement in sexual assault issues

One in five women and one in 16 men has been or will be sexually assaulted while in college. Eight in 10 victims know their attackers. These statistics, from the It's On Us campaign website, illustrate that sexual assault is a crucial issue on all campuses.

Thankfully, Elon University and Burlington are encouraging students and residents to prevent and deal with sexual assault. But there is still room for improvement.

According to the It's On Us website, the campaign is a "cultural movement aimed at fundamentally shifting the way we think about sexual assault." It is based on the platform that sexual assault is not just a crime between the attacker and the victim but a problem for the whole community. The goal is to reframe the current assumptions on sexual assault so that the responsibility goes beyond those immediately involved.

In October, North Carolina State University released a video PSA with students, faculty and staff stating that sexual assault is up to everyone to combat. The video highlights the university's awareness and prevention of sexual assault. People from all

walks of life, backgrounds, clubs, etc. were shown in the video voicing their support for a community-based response to sexual assault. All demographics are responsible.

The It's On Us campaign has the right idea.

While Elon supports multiple organizations, committees and events, they can only do so much. It is then the responsibility of the rest of the community to take part in spreading prevention and awareness.

This may seem like a daunting task. Yet, there are multiple ways the issue can be approached. Talking openly about sexual assault can encourage deeper understanding. If you see something, do something. If a situation looks like it could end badly, intervene.

For prevention, Elon implements multiple programs, talks and campaigns to raise awareness of sexual assault on campus.

According to Jessica Clark, the coordinator for violence response for Elon, a few examples of some of these initiatives and programs include Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge, and Success (SPARKS) peer education — which focuses on educating students on sexual violence and prevention, the "Can I Kiss You?" program and the HAVEN online sexual assault program that all incoming students, first-year, transfer, graduate and law students, are required to complete.

Elon Feminists for Equality, Change, and Transformation (EFFECT), organized a Support Survivors Week and the Walk Against Victim Blaming earlier this semester. Additionally, Students Promoting Awareness, Change and Empowerment (SPACE), is a new student group that is dedicated to ending sexual violence at Elon.

Elon also has SAFELine, a confidential phone line that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for community members concerned about or experiencing identity-based bias or discrimination, sexual assault or stalking.

For victims who may want to go outside Elon for help, CrossRoads, a sexual assault response and resource center, is located in Burlington.

Ann Cahill, professor of philosophy, is proud of all that has been accomplished at Elon but acknowledges that there is room for more collaboration.

"We know there's a need because survivors of sexual assault still think twice about telling their story to a friend, a counselor or a university official," Cahill said. "We need to work harder as a community to earn the trust of survivors and to learn to respond to disclosures of sexual assault with compassion, effective assistance and understanding."

Clark explained that if the awareness

"WE KNOW THERE'S STILL A NEED BECAUSE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT STILL THINK TWICE ABOUT TELLING THEIR STORY TO A FRIEND, A COUNSELOR OR A UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL."

ANN CAHILL
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

and education of sexual assault are spread, two goals must be achieved. The first is to create an environment supporting and believing survivors by letting them know that it is not their fault. The second goal is to encourage efforts to prevent sexual assault, such as ending victim blaming, obtaining consent and engaging in bystander intervention, to keep everyone accountable for the community's safety.

Elon stands together against sexual assault in our community. If everyone became more involved, imagine what could be done to stop sexual assault on campus.

We need collaborations to go beyond just committees and organizations — we need to reach to every corner of campus. We need to engage the rest of Elon on becoming educated on the issues surrounding sexual assault and have them join the mission to take it on. It's on all of us.

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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AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND EVENTS

It's On Us Action Week
Week of Nov. 17
SGA hosts roundtable discussions with student leaders and organizations.

CrossRoads 24-Hours Crisis
336-228-3333

SAFELine
336-278-3333

Emergency or if you need to talk:
Counseling Services at Elon
336-278-7280

For student organizations who want to request the bystander intervention workshop, contact Whitney Gregory, director of health promotions.
336-278-7200

It's On Us
itsonus.org

Smarter than your average Burly, apparently

On my first day of class at Elon University, I blatantly lied about where I was from. I told people I was from Durham or South



Katy Canada
Columnist

Dakota or Beirut — anything to deter the inevitable line of questioning that I knew would ensue if I told the truth.

Now, I say it out loud. I'm from Burlington.

My first year, I started hearing statements like, "You're not average Burly."

This comment is problematic for a number of reasons.

First of all, I highly doubt anyone at Elon actually knows how to qualify an "average Burly." Asserting there's even such a thing as an "average Burly" insinuates that every person in the town of Burlington is subject to the same insulting generalization. And implying that I'm better than "the average Burly" because I go to Elon implies that Elon students are somehow superior to everyone else in the general vicinity.

Elon students know that using generalizing terms to characterize entire populations is off limits. Not on our campus, we say. The administration upholds a type of noble vigilantism when it comes to offensive slurs. The

term "Burly" shouldn't be any different.

There's no better way to deepen the divide between the university and the community than enhancing the perception of otherness that Elon students project onto Burlington residents.

Calling people Burlies suggests they are uneducated, they exclusively wear camouflage and they speak with a deep Southern accent. Let's be clear — there's nothing wrong with camouflage or Southern accents.

Those are elements of the local culture that you chose to become a part of when you came to Elon by your own free will. But assuming someone from a particular location is inferior because of the way they look or your perception of them is incorrect.

I sometimes forget that Boo Radley lives in a fictional Alabama town because Elon students make it seem like he lives behind the Station at Mill Point.

If you're guilty of perpetuating any of the aforementioned stereotypes, I invite you now to put your foot in your mouth.

If you think your house party suddenly got sketchy when a member of the local community walked in, perhaps you should, first of all, think about locking your door. Then imagine how they must feel when they walk into the Goodwill Industries store to do some shopping and find a throng of college students turning the entire operation into a costume bin for their theme parties.



Downtown Burlington boasts shops, restaurants and markets that Elon students may not visit very often.

We walk among you, and you're blithely unaware because we're not that different. We're just people who don't have as far to travel on holidays. And let's face it, not everyone can be born in a glamorous place like New Jersey or Philadelphia.

For the most part, people from Burlington are kind and hardworking — just the kind of people Bruce Springsteen would write a song about. It's not a perfect place, but such a place doesn't exist.

Burlington has endured some of the worst that Elon has to offer — entitlement, disregard and general antics — and for some reason, community members still aren't that bothered by students.

Businesses appreciate their patronage, and most locals value the change of pace brought on by the flood of fresh faces every

fall. It's upsetting to see that students don't reciprocate their courtesy.

Chances are, if you're reading this newspaper, you're not from around here — and if you are, hi, Mom and Dad. Elon casts a wide net when it comes to recruiting students from all across the United States. And those students learn a lot about how to be civically engaged and active in the community while they're here.

But what they don't learn about is respect. Belittling the community that surrounds Elon and welcomes its student body year in and year out is a snobby.

Next time you find yourself mocking the place you call home during your college years, you should remind yourself that everyone has a hometown. Just because yours isn't here doesn't make it better.

Let's talk about sex, Elon

No matter how hard some try to deny it, there is one activity that is, without a doubt, happening at Elon University: sex.



Rachel Lewis
Columnist

In an online survey of 100 sophomores, juniors, and seniors, students consistently expressed concerns about how sex goes down at Elon. Their main concerns?

The role of alcohol and a lack of communication and consent.

The problem with liquid courage

In case you were unaware, college students drink. With this in mind, we should take a moment and think about how alcohol could influence a powerful factor in the Elon party scene.

"Sex drives the party scene at Elon," a female senior said. "It becomes a trophy or something to cross off your bucket list, like having sex in all the academic buildings or hooking up with someone from every fraternity or sorority."

And she isn't the only one who said

she feels this way.

A sophomore said, "If you have sex on the weekends, then you had a good weekend. People who hook up with people are 'successful.'"

But for some, the loss of inhibitions, or taking advantage of other people losing their inhibitions, turns out badly.

"Some people are very aggressive, especially when intoxicated, which can be scary," said another female sophomore.

As students, we must recognize that some of our peers are fearful of overly aggressive partygoers and that alcohol plays a role in this issue.

It is not a rare event for someone to wake up the next morning uncomfortable with what happened last night because they were too impaired to have a say in what was happening in their, or somebody else's, bed.

Let's talk about sex

Many respondents said they, too, felt that although some students are comfortable talking about sex with their friends or over apps like Yik Yak, they are rarely discussing sex with their partners.

In response to the question about how communication about sex works at Elon,

a female senior said, "There is this cloud of awkwardness surrounding sex because people just don't know how to deal with having open conversations if there is a risk that they will be embarrassing or uncomfortable. People here would rather just avoid it and hope for the best, which unfortunately can lead to all sorts of bad outcomes."

All too often people on campus are having sex that they aren't interested in having or aren't trying out things that they want to try. If sex is meant to be a pleasurable experience, discussion has to be a prerequisite.

Just as no one knows exactly what "hookup" means, no one knows exactly what "sex" means either.

What feels good to one person may feel terrible to another, which is something students need to take into account if they're going to continue engaging in sexual activity.

While a hookup doesn't necessarily mean forever-love, it should include an element of respect that means that *both* people should benefit from the encounter, or at least not be scarred for life.

Consent?

With alcohol playing a strong role

and inhibiting the ability of students to make decisions, the idea of consent being enthusiastically given and explicitly stated seems nearly impossible.

A female senior said, "People do not know how to deal with sex. People do not understand what consent looks like when they are actually in the bedroom, a few drinks in. I think it creates a culture where nonconsensual sexual encounters are normalized."

Let me put it this way: if you're going to have sex, you need to talk about it, and it's probably going to be better to have that discussion if you're not drunk.

The art of communication

At the end of the day, some students say they feel that sex at Elon isn't what it's meant to be. Those of us that do have sex are messing up in some pretty major ways. We're not practicing consent, and we're not practicing safe sex.

But not all hope is lost.

Judging from the results of the survey and the sheer number of people who stepped up to take it, Elon students want to be better at sex, and the best way to do is to open up the channels of communication.

So, let's talk about sex.

Putting down the bricks

On the walk to class, Elon University students are accustomed to running into detour signs, mile-high fences and entire



Kate Nichols
Columnist

sections of campus that are closed off. And on early weekday mornings, loud banging and the not-so-distant shouting of construction workers in their element are the norm.

Construction on Elon's campus in recent years has become more prevalent, as school officials have decided that constant updates are necessary for the university's future success and prosperity. And while in theory all of these additions should be exciting and new, we must ask if these changes are essential or even warranted. Loud noises aside, the rising tuition prices and excessive change and expansion on campus make some Elon students skeptical that these large additions are right for the student population.

In fact, each year, Elon student tuition fees increase in part because of expansion. Students do not have a choice as to where their money is spent on campus, and most will not see these new buildings up and running until after graduation.

Even if this money is not being directly spent on construction, Elon's goal of expansion will make tuition prices rise further. The school has been vocal

in the past about its priority in making Elon a more established and well-known university nationally. As the school accomplishes this goal of expansion and notoriety, the university will become more competitive and, as a result, more expensive.

While university growth is essential to future success, the speed at which Elon is changing the campus and setting down new groundwork for new buildings can be shocking.

Currently, Elon's largest expansion project is the new admissions building outside of the Moseley Center. Other upcoming projects include the expansion of the School of Communications and Long buildings. The construction of the admissions building has been in progress for about a year and will contain the main admissions office, as well as several individual office spaces. If construction continues at this rate, no building will be left unaltered.

Taking into consideration the aftermath of this construction, what will happen to the older buildings on campus? For now, the university does not plan on knocking anything down, which means that campus will be more congested and lacking in parking.

The university is also working toward a goal of having 75 percent of undergraduates living on campus, which adds even more to the congestion on campus. With so few students off campus, more complaints of the school being closed off and reserved, or as part of the "Elon bubble," may grow.



The new Elon admissions building has been under construction for more than a year.

MPPA ratings not consistent

"There is too much sex and violence in television and film."

We have heard the same mantra for years. Parents complain their children are exposed to too much explicit content, but media producers continue to create material that parents deem unsuitable.

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) follows a general set of guidelines for creating film ratings that help parents decide whether to allow their children to see these movies. These ratings decide what is appropriate for audiences, warning potential viewers of what material will be shown in the media.

But there is a discrepancy in the ratings. While those complaining about the content in media tend to tie sex and violence together, the ratings for these two categories differ. There are different criteria for choosing whether children are allowed to see the incarnations of sexual and/or violent acts, and that's a problem.

The MPAA rates the violence in films according to far more ambiguous criteria than the sexual content. While films can change from a PG to PG-13 rating for a single instance of female nudity in a non-sexual context, the criteria for violence follows such guidelines as "more than minimal," "stronger than mild" and "too rough."

How could anyone consistently rate the violence in movies according to such vague guidelines? They are far too subjective to provide any real consistency to their ratings. In comparison to these violence ratings, the guidelines for sexual acts and nudity in films are far more structured and rigid.

As the years have progressed, the MPAA has attempted to step up its game, but it has only created more of an issue and more of a mess. The descriptor of "male nudity" in film ratings, which was added in 2010, has become a major subject of

criticism. While showing a woman's breasts will give a film a PG-13 rating, showing any form of comparable male nudity — with the exception of simply not wearing a shirt — will likely propel the film to an R rating or higher.

Critics of the MPAA rating system suggest that the MPAA views the bodies of women as "less objectionable" than those of men, therefore justifying the lower ratings they receive for appearing nude on camera. It seems to me, that in the eyes of the MPAA it is a greater issue to sexually objectify a man's body than a woman's.

Although I don't shy away from the presence of violence in media, and I understand that violence does occur in real life and therefore heightens the reality of a film, no one can deny that the inconsistency between sex and violence ratings is



profound. By restricting sexuality in films to such a degree, ratings make it more difficult for a film to reach wider audiences, a problem that does not exist for highly negotiable violence ratings.

The issues lie with the discrepancy between ratings for sex — as well as non-sexual nudity — and violence in films. When sex is vital to life and violence is not, why do we shun the appearance of any nudity in films? Why is there such a difference in how male and female nudity is weighed? And what in the world does it even mean for a film's level of violence to be considered "more than minimal?" These are some of the questions the MPAA needs to answer, and fast.

Elon punter takes notice with fake punt



David Petroni, a Buford, Georgia native, has been Elon's starting punter for each of the last two years. ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Matt Mallian
Assistant Sports Editor

Usually when the punter is noticed on the football field, it's not a good thing.

The opposite held true for Elon University sophomore punter David Petroni in the team's Oct. 25 loss to the University of Richmond.

On fourth-and-11, Petroni and Elon's special teams set up in normal punting formation. Once Petroni took the snap, he was off to the races, scampering 13 yards for a first down.

The play call was based on something Elon head coach Rich Skrosky saw in

Richmond's punt coverage unit.

"You're really looking for a numbers advantage," Skrosky said. "Richmond was showing a two-deep look, which takes a guy out of the front, so they were a guy short on the front."

For Petroni, a fake punt run was an unfamiliar play that became more comfortable after a week of practice.

"I've actually never run the ball," he said. "I just ran left and did my best."

Between the fake punt and seven others, fans in attendance got to see a lot of Petroni against the Spiders. Because Elon's offense has struggled, Petroni has been on the field a lot this season.

Through eight games, only two punters in the Colonial Athletic Association had punted more than Petroni. Against Richmond, Petroni booted seven for an average of 42.6 yards.

His seven punts were a mix of traditional and lower trajectory, rugby-style punts. The Phoenix has used the rugby-style more regularly under Skrosky this season. Last year, under head coach Jason Swepson, Petroni only kicked a handful of rugby-style punts all season.

Elon operates under the belief that the rugby style punt has two major advantages: the odds of the opposing team returning the punt are significantly lower and the chance that the punt will strike an opposing player is higher, allowing Elon the chance to recover.

While both of these are valid reasons for mixing in the rugby-style, Petroni admits he's struggled with the drops on his punts at times, a part of his game he has started to polish.

"At the start of the season, I was disappointed," Petroni said. "I had a problem where my drop was kind of floating in on me which causes shorter, lower hang time punts. I didn't start out the way I know I can. But I really focused in, made a couple of adjustments, fixed what I was doing and I'm hitting the ball really well now."

When practice wasn't enough to get it right, Petroni performed drills in his apartment.

Even with Petroni's struggles, Skrosky has shown a commitment to mixing up the punts, citing the net yardage of the rugby-style as an advantage.

"The mix-up is helping," Skrosky said. "Now that we have both in, it's really hard

for a team to gang up on the kick point."

Though Petroni is much more experienced with the traditional punts, he sees no reason not to succeed with the rugby style.

"I try and set the expectation pretty high," Petroni said. "I like to think of myself as my hardest critic. I know if it's a bad hit even if some guys are telling me it's a good hit. I know it could be better. I think I try to be hard on myself. It's better to be hard on myself than say, 'OK, that's good enough.'"

For Elon's special teams unit, it may be a blessing in disguise that the offense hasn't been able to sustain drives. Less offensive success means more chances for Petroni to work on perfecting both punting styles.

"Obviously it's not a great thing to punt more," Petroni said. "But from my standpoint, I get some good reps. It's always good to snap with a live rush coming at me, so it's good practice."

Previewing Elon's game at William & Mary



—William & Mary is 5-4 overall and 2-3 in the CAA. The Tribe was upset 31-24 last week by James Madison.

—The Tribe dropped from No. 17 to No. 24 (media) and No. 25 (coaches) in this week's FCS polls.

—Elon and William & Mary have three common opponents. The Tribe beat Stony Brook 27-21 in overtime, while the Phoenix lost to the Seawolves 20-3. Both teams lost to New Hampshire, Elon by a 48-14 result and William & Mary 32-3. Elon lost to Delaware 34-24 while William & Mary beat the Blue Hens 31-17.

—William & Mary running back Kendall Anderson was named this week's CAA Special Teams Player of the Week. He blocked a punt and recovered it for a touchdown in the loss to James Madison.

—The Tribe ranks near the bottom of the CAA in total defense (ninth) and pass defense (11th). They're last in the league in pass defense efficiency, allowing opponents to complete 67.1 percent of their passes.

—William & Mary runs a balanced offense, averaging 143 rush yards per game and 172.6 pass yards per game.

—Mikal Abdul-Saboor leads the Tribe running attack. He's carried the ball 174 times for 831 yards and eight touchdowns. Steve Cluley operates the offense at quarterback and has completed 122 of 218 passes for 1,537 yards and eight touchdowns.

—Luke Rhodes is William & Mary's leading tackler with 70, in addition to recording three sacks. Mike Reilly leads the Tribe with nine sacks.

—William & Mary coach Jimmie Laycock is in his 35th year and has an all-time record of 227-169-2. He's led the Tribe to nine playoff berths.

Volleyball wins first CAA match

The Elon University volleyball team ended an 11-match losing streak and earned its first CAA victory on Friday, when it edged the College of William & Mary 3-2 (30-28, 23-25, 25-21, 19-25, 15-11) at Alumni Gym.

The Phoenix was previously 0-10 in the new conference and hadn't won since Sept. 23. Against William & Mary, sophomore libero Morgan Maner tied an Elon Division I program record with eight aces, as the Phoenix recorded a season-high 14 aces. Junior outside hitter Megan Gravley had 16 kills, while senior middle blocker Kris Harris had 10 kills and six blocks.

Maner's aces helped Elon overcome a six-point deficit in the third set to win. The Phoenix began the fifth set on a 5-0 run and didn't let up.

On Sunday, Elon dropped a five-set match to James Madison University (25-23, 20-25, 25-19, 23-25, 15-12) on a controversial call on the final point.

The Dukes held match point with a 14-12 lead in the fifth set when an attack bounced up into the rafters along the ceiling on the Elon side. Maner was able to track it down and win the point, but James Madison protested, and the officials ruled that the ball hit the back wall, which is out of play.

"They didn't see it right away, but evidently, on the confronting of [the officials] they said it did hit the back wall," said Elon head coach Mary Tendler.

Koch selected in D-League Draft

Elon University alumnus and former men's basketball standout Sebastian Koch was selected in the NBA D-League Draft Saturday. Koch was taken by the Delaware 87ers with the 35th overall pick.

The 87ers play their home games at the Bob Carpenter Center on the campus of the University of Delaware. They're an affiliate of the Philadelphia 76ers of the NBA.

Koch, who graduated from Elon this past spring, is one of 17 players competing for 10 spots on the team's roster. Training camp began Monday.

Koch scored 1,120 points in his career at Elon, downing 242 3-pointers, a tally that ranks third in school history. He was a Second Team All-Southern Conference pick last year, when he averaged 11.7 points per game.

Koch is one of three players from the 2014 men's basketball class to be playing professionally, joining Ryley Beaumont — BK Nova Hut Ostrava basketball club in the Czech Republic — and Lucas Troutman — Club Baloncesto Peñas Huesca in Spain.

Vargas wins individual crown at CAA Championships

Elon University senior Luis Vargas won the men's 8K race at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships Saturday, becoming Elon's first-ever CAA champion.

Vargas crossed the finish line with a time of 24:11.37, shattering Elon's school record. The next-closest finisher was 53 seconds behind.

It's the fifth race he's competed in this year — and the fifth he's won. He also was named the CAA Most Outstanding Performer at the meet.

Elon senior Ari Rothschild finished fifth with a time of 25:12.28.

On the women's side, senior Tereza Novotna set an Elon record with her time of 21:08.37, landing her fifth place overall. Senior Jenny Gallagher came in sixth with a time of 21:10.91, and junior Elyse Bierut was 10th at 21:41.06.



Sports Briefs

Crossing the country for volleyball

Kayla Agae travels with family from Japan, Hawaii and Las Vegas on her path to Elon



Kayla Agae was born in Japan and lived in Hawaii before her family settled down in Las Vegas when she was in third grade.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Tommy Hamzik
Sports Editor

There's a beach on the eastern side of the Hawaiian island O'ahu, not far from Honolulu, where Kayla Agae's mother used to tell her and her sisters not to go past a certain marker.

Near that beach is the United States Marine Corps base where Agae's mom, Suzanne, and dad, Papaevalu, worked from 1997 to 2003.

Much farther away is Okinawa, Japan, where Agae was born, Las Vegas, where her family moved after their time in Hawaii, and Elon University, where she's a sophomore outside hitter on the volleyball team.

Her path to Elon differs drastically from much of the squad — nearly half of Agae's 11 teammates are from North Carolina — but there's no way of knowing that. She's made a seamless transition after making the fourth move of her life, all of more than 2,000 miles.

"I don't think somebody from the outside could come in and pick out who the West-Coaster is," said sophomore middle blocker Ally Karle. "She's transitioned really well with time zones and being away from her family. I give her a lot of credit."

Childhood years

Agae's parents met in the Marines. Papaevalu is a native of American Samoa, while Suzanne moved around the northwestern United States when she was young. They both worked in Okinawa, the southernmost prefecture of Japan, where there are 34 U.S. military bases.

Agae, the youngest of three daughters, was born Feb. 14, 1995. When she was two years old, the family moved to Hawaii.

Six years later, they relocated to Las Vegas. Agae hasn't been back to Hawaii since.

"It's almost like, I don't want to go back to ruin how I left it because it's so precious," Agae said. "It's become more touristy, more commercialized. I want to go back and see it, but I don't want to ruin the memories I have."

Agae began third grade when she moved to Las Vegas.

"I joke around [that] I had my childhood in Hawaii. You can't go outside in Vegas — it's too hot," Agae said. "And the beach isn't right down the street."

Choosing Elon

Agae knew she'd play collegiate volleyball and wanted to commit to a Division I school before her senior year at Silverado High School.

She first got in contact with Jen Fry, an Elon assistant coach and director of recruiting, through some of her club coaches. Agae talked with her a lot more during a USA Volleyball camp at the summer between her junior and senior years of high school before attending Elon's volleyball camp, when Elon head

coach Mary Tendler offered her a scholarship.

After mulling it over with her parents, Agae committed to Elon even though she had only seen three parts of campus — Alumni Gym, Colonnades dining hall and the area around Sloan Residence Hall. She only had one other offer, from a Division II school.

"I had the mindset of 'I'll go anywhere.' Far, close, near," Agae said. "[Elon] is totally different from Vegas heat, for sure. It's different from Hawaii. We have four seasons here. I've never experienced that."

Agae saw the rest of campus during her official visit in November of her senior year. Before heading to Elon for preseason camp last year, she and her mom made the 36-hour cross-country drive to Elon.

One of the first things she noticed: there were considerably more country music radio stations than in Las Vegas.

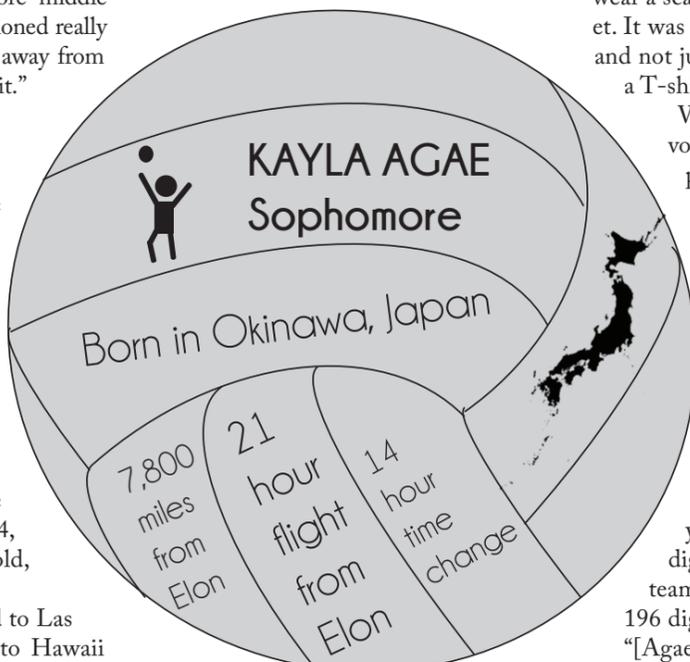
Perhaps the biggest adjustment, though, came when fall and winter rolled around.

"We wear boots here. I've never experienced that. I don't wear boots," Agae said. "I have to wear jeans, I have to actually wear a scarf and a jacket and another jacket. It was hard to wake up in the morning and not just throw on a pair of shorts and a T-shirt."

When she first arrived at Elon, volleyball kept her busy. With preseason practice occupying her for the first month, Agae was able to adjust fairly easily. Her roommate and teammate, sophomore libero Morgan Maner, is from Burlington. Her family made Agae feel at home.

On the court, Agae made an immediate impact for the Phoenix. She played in all 33 matches during her freshman year, recording 198 kills and 124 digs. This year, she's second on the team with 165 kills and third with 196 digs.

"[Agae] seems to fit right in at Elon," Tendler said. "Each person is different."



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN DEMARIA | Design Chief

Some people that live close by have the hardest time being away from home just because things are different. I don't think distance is always a determining factor. The teammates do a really good job making sure they're OK, especially when they first get here. They take care of each other."

Staying in touch

For Agae, the biggest downside to being at Elon is missing out on big moments with her family, even though she stays as connected as she can.

Her sister Marilyn recently got engaged, and she was able to FaceTime with her family to share in the special moment. Agae is also an aunt to her oldest sister Rebecca's two children.

"I wish I was there for my sister's 21st birthday when he proposed," Agae said. "I wish I was there seeing my nephew grow up. He's growing like a weed. I'm sad I'm missing out on what is happening back home, but I know my family's supporting me enough that I'm going to accomplish what I want in North Carolina."

With the hectic volleyball season and classes, Agae is only able to take the five-hour flight back to Las Vegas twice a year — winter break and summer.

But she only has one regret.

"I regret not bringing winter clothes," she said.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

Volleyball @ UNC
Wilmington, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Men's Basketball
vs. Emory & Henry
(exhibition), 7 p.m.,
Alumni Gym

Women's Tennis
@ Kitty Harrison
Tournament

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

Women's Tennis
@ Kitty Harrison
Tournament

Football @ William &
Mary, 3:30 p.m.

Cross Country @ Three
Stripe Invitational

Volleyball @ College of
Charleston, 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Women's Tennis
@ Kitty Harrison
Tournament

ELON PHOENIX ATHLETICS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: NOVEMBER 5 - NOVEMBER 11

Phoenix makes seamless CAA transition

Kyle Maher
Senior Reporter

It isn't often the new kids on the block join a different conference and show long-standing and well-established programs how to play. But that is exactly what the Elon University men's soccer team has done in its maiden campaign through the Colonial Athletic Association, where it has enjoyed the type of success unprecedented for a team in its position.

The Phoenix immediately put itself in position to win the regular season crown and host the postseason tournament barely a month after joining the league with high expectations but little idea of what they would be up against.

While Elon lost 2-1 to the University of Delaware on Nov. 2 in a game that could have given the Phoenix the No. 1 seed in the CAA Tournament, there's still a tremendous upside with being the No. 4 seed. The Phoenix will host No. 5 Northeastern University at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 at Rudd Field in a CAA Quarterfinal.

Head coach Chris Little isn't surprised with his team's start, as he expected the program to translate without issue no matter the conference.

"We've set a precedent and a culture in our program with the mentality that we can play with anyone in the country," Little said. "Our determination and work ethic allow us to be successful in whatever conference we're in."

It didn't appear that way two games in, though, as the Phoenix lost its conference opener to Hofstra University, then battled for a scoreless draw at the College of William and Mary.

It was the alarm the team needed to appreciate the difficulty of the league and the passion and intensity that the Phoenix needed to come out and succeed in the highly competitive CAA.

"We sort of needed that kick in the butt," said junior midfielder Myles Mansfield. "Hofstra came in and gave us the wake-up call we needed. After that we knew we had



Elon will host Northeastern on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Rudd Field in a CAA Quarterfinal. The Phoenix beat the Huskies 5-0 at home on Oct. 11.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

to step it up."

The Phoenix regrouped and refocused for the home stretch, rededicating itself to the practice pitch in order to flip the script on a season that seemed destined for mediocrity.

"We were able to get in a groove and put a winning streak together, which was huge for our confidence," Mansfield said. "We were able to turn it around and make up for our slow start and find our way, especially offensively."

The draw with William & Mary was the turning point in its season, as the Phoenix rattled off wins in quick succession, thanks in large part to its scoring in bunches. It started with a 5-0 undressing of Northeastern University, followed by arguably Elon's most impressive win of the season: a 2-1 victory over the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, which was nationally ranked at the time.

The Phoenix found its groove and rode the wave of momentum to wins over Drexel University, and then stepping out of conference play for the final time to beat Duke University 2-1.

After a scoreless draw against James Madison University, Elon beat an out-matched College of Charleston team 2-1 in double overtime in a game much closer than expected. Still, it was a victory that extended the Phoenix's unbeaten streak to seven.

A key factor to Elon's dramatic turnaround and undefeated streak was its improved offense. The unit struggled in the season's beginning but has since scored 11 goals in seven conference games.

"[Offense] was certainly a factor in our turnaround, but I don't think it was the sole factor," Little said. "The guys knew they would need to step up their production offensively to win consistently in the CAA,

but we'd been setting ourselves up before, we just haven't been finishing our chances until recently."

But it was Elon's brand of attacking soccer, senior defender Austin Dunker said, as well as its unique ability to adapt seamlessly to their opponent's playing style, that were essential to the Phoenix's turnaround. Both translated well and were a natural fit in the new conference.

"We're prepared and able to adapt to any playing style, which is a big reason why we've been so successful," Dunker said. "We're flexible in how we adapt to different game situations and tactics and are comfortable with changing it up on the fly."

As the Phoenix closes in on the CAA Tournament, it can reflect fondly on the past games. That wake-up call was what Elon needed to straighten out what appeared to be a derailing season.

McCallie adjusts to sitting out transfer year

Kate Murphy
Senior Reporter

Maddie McCallie grew up surrounded by basketballs and hoops. She developed a passion for the game at an early age, thanks to her mother, Joanne P. McCallie, who's the head women's basketball coach at Duke University.

"It's always been a dream of mine," said McCallie, a junior guard on the Elon



Maddie McCallie

University women's basketball team. "I played basketball throughout my childhood and I knew it was what I wanted to do in college."

McCallie, a native of Durham, came to Elon this fall with hopes of pursuing that dream and making an impact on the court. She originally committed to Miami University in Ohio, but after a coaching change and two seasons of playing for the Red Hawks, McCallie got her release from the program.

"We always clear it through compliance to make sure we're compliant with NCAA rules," said Elon head coach Charlotte Smith about the transfer process. "You receive a formal letter from compliance

stating that this student is interested in transferring, which is kind of like the green light."

Smith knew McCallie was a terrific scorer and a great outside threat after seeing her play in high school. With key offensive players graduating, that's something Elon is looking to replace.

"I always tell my players that I won't recruit talent at the expense of character," Smith said.

Once McCallie got her release, the first thing Smith wanted to do was get to know her as a person, not just a player. For Smith, one of the most important elements of a team is good chemistry.

"I always tell my players that I won't recruit talent at the expense of character," Smith said. "Getting to find out who the person is and what they stand for is important to me. And that was important to Maddie as well, [to be a] part of a family atmosphere."

McCallie's visit made the decision easy for her. She was able to meet with the coaches in person and take a tour of campus, where she also met a few professors.

"The basketball program is a better fit for me here," McCallie said. "The coaching staff showed interest in me, and I felt that they truly cared and really wanted me there, and just how genuine everyone was really made me want to be a part of it."

For McCallie, the best part about her

decision was the chance to be a part of the team and get a new start, although it didn't come without obstacles.

One of the biggest challenges for any Division I transfer is that he or she must sit out for an entire year of competition. McCallie will not play this season as she abides by that NCAA rule.

"Mentally, you just have to find ways to get excited about just being a practice player every day," Smith said. "You look outside of yourself and realize the harder I go and the more I push myself, the better it's going to make someone else."

The team keeps McCallie motivated. Although she doesn't play a direct role on the court, she is an integral part of the practices and the team culture.

"Even though I can't play this year, I still get really excited for the season and being a part of everything else besides the games," McCallie said.

For McCallie, seeing the potential of the team, watching them compete and seeing all the hard work pay off keeps her eager to play.

"The hardest part is staying motivated and knowing that you are going to play again eventually, it's just going to take time," McCallie said. "Looking at it as a chance to get better, support your team and continue to get to know them and get adjusted."

Despite the difficulty, McCallie is com-

mitted to going into each practice determined to improve her game and get integrated into the team dynamics.

Her strength as an outside shooter doesn't go unnoticed by her teammates, who understand and respect what she brings to the court.

"With the practices she has practiced thus far, they do a great job of knowing where Maddie is on the floor and finding her for open shots," Smith said.

Even without the ability to compete on the court, Smith said McCallie's mental approach to every practice is something to be commended.

"Her work ethic is contagious," Smith said. "She comes prepared for practice every day, and that's the thing that, as a coach, makes you excited because you can have a lot of talented players out there, but if they aren't working hard then they're not setting an example."

Although it will be a long year before McCallie can actually step out on the court in a uniform and participate, Smith said transferring helps develop a mentality that's far bigger than herself. For both of them, that's what being a part of the team is all about.

This is part two of a series on transfer athletes at Elon. Read the first story, about men's soccer player Nathan Diehl, online at elonpendulum.com.

Top Photos



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer
Senator Richard Burr makes an appearance at Thom Tillis' election party.



JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor
Yearbook staff members (L to R) Kristen Burke, Stephanie Webster, Rebecca Venetianer, Gina Apperson and Taylor Barclay distributed 125th anniversary yearbooks at College Coffee on Tuesday.



LANE DEACON | Staff Photographer
Dancing in the Black Box will highlight nine pieces of student, faculty and guest choreography, and is primarily composed of contemporary and contemporary ballet works.



HALI TALUXE-STEWART | Staff Photographer
Republican Mark Walker leaves the stage after beating Laura Fjeld for U.S. House of Representatives.



NICOLE OSGOOD | Staff Photographer
Sophomore Jenifer Rhodes and junior Lauren Hudson defend the ball in their winning game against Catawba on Monday.

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