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THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008 | VOLUME 34, EDITION 12

www.elon.edu/pendulum

Miracle families, miracle students



Elonthon dancers perform part of the event's morale dance. More than 1,000 people registered to participate in this year's Elonthon.

TIFFANY WARNER | Photographer

Jacqui Seidel
Reporter

A quick countdown from three and a flick of a switch was all it took for the glow of hope to be seen in Alumni Gym. The room silenced as young Lizzy Lindley turned on the ever-famous Elonthon sign, adorned with glowing Christmas lights.

For many, this small sign is a constant reminder of the hope and inspiration behind the 24-hour dance marathon for Duke Children's Hospital.

Cheers quickly quieted as Tracey Lindley crossed the stage to once

again share her family's story. But this year, her message was different.

Since her son Mason's passing, Tracey has been searching for a way to fill the vast hole in her heart. For her, the answer is Elonthon.

Coming out and seeing the kids and students who have dedicated themselves to her son's memory is a type of therapy no doctor can offer. Now Tracey wants to give back to the students that have given her so much hope.

"What you all are doing today and tomorrow, is not just about today and tomorrow," Tracey said. "It's much

bigger than that."

A quick glance around the dark gymnasium showed students faces sprinkled with tears of love for this "miracle family."

Miracle families are the motivation behind Elonthon and dance marathons across the nation. By sharing their experiences and troubling pasts, they offer motivation to the students as they strive to stand for 24 straight hours.

According to these families, though, it is the students who are the true heroes.

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Blackout Elon revealed: buzz campaign seeks to change perspectives



Flyers displaying only two fingerprints were posted across campus as part of Live Oak Communications' Black Out Elon campaign.

Kaitlin Ugolik
Futures Editor

The mysterious fingerprint flyers that created a buzz during the past two weeks were finally explained at College Coffee on April 8 when members of Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, Knowledge and Success (SPARKS) peer education and Live Oak Communications passed out free T-shirts explaining their Blackout Elon campaign.

It is a "social norms" campaign thought up by Lee Bush's corporate campaigns class and executed by Live Oak Communications and SPARKS to change Elon students' perception of drinking on campus.

Students in the corporate campaigns class looked at the 2007 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, a survey given out every two years to freshmen, and found what they described as surprising results: Of students who choose to drink, most only do so once a week and only 8.6 percent of students reported drinking five times per week. But the survey showed that many students think their peers drink five times per week.

"Students think their peers drink a lot more than they do," junior Andrea Griskey said. "If we put the facts out, maybe those who drink more will change to fit in."

Griskey said that the goal was to use a peer-to-peer method of getting the facts out, first by getting students' attention and generating a buzz — that's where the fingerprints came in.

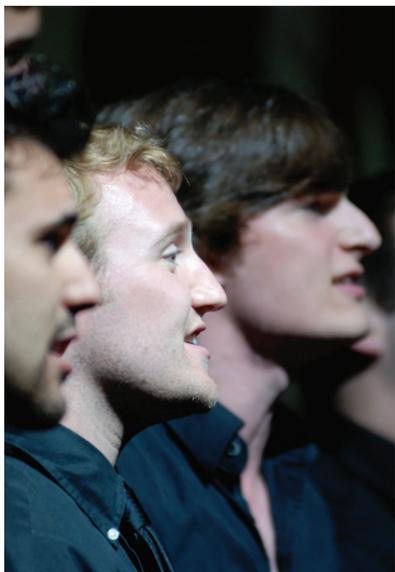
Sophomore Chrissie Cordeira, peer educator for SPARKS, explained the name of the campaign.

"Blackout' on this campus means getting drunk to the point that you don't know what you're doing," she said. "We're trying to change the definition of the word and make it positive, to blackout misconceptions."

Cordeira said that although Elon students do drink more than students on other campuses, according to the survey, a lot of them drink responsibly.

She said that the campaigners want to show students that not everyone at Elon lives the same lifestyle: There is a population of responsible drinkers and students who don't drink at all.

Honors convocation highlights performers



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor
Performing arts students sang the world premiere of "A Little More Homework," composed by Jason Robert Brown for his upcoming Broadway musical "13."

Megan Schneider
Reporter

As convocation unfolded last Thursday, Elon students shared their perspectives through performances, speeches and video confessionals.

Different from last year — when Elon focused on the ELR requirements — the convocation was dedicated to appreciating Elon's performing arts department.

Elon has been nationally recognized for its commitment to students and as the community continues to enrich every student's experience, students take guest speaker Hal Prince's words of wisdom and hope to keep growing wherever they may go.

"Elon faculty and staff literally took me by the hand and helped me," alumna Nancy Snow said. "They wanted me to succeed; they challenged me so I could face tomorrow. Elon is a place to explore and take risks, we don't get better if we don't fall; they gave me a place to fall."

Aside from recognizing the students that have received honors this past academic year, Elon's performing arts department helped in welcoming Prince to the stage.

Considered a "giant" of the music theater world, Prince has won 22 Tony Awards and is known as one of the most influential individuals in American musicals today.

Considering Prince's identity, many students were hooked on every word he said; Alumni Gym was silent one moment and full of laughter after every joke.

"I think it went well and I was honored to perform in front of Elon and Hal Prince," said sophomore Rachael Fine. "It was a great way to show the community what the performing arts department is all about."

Prince's final remarks included a closing message that was well

See CONVOCATION | Page 4



Foreman's family was supported by his friends and Elon faculty at the event. ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor



A butterfly lands on the finger of one of the event's attendees. ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

Honoring Michael Foreman

Students and faculty came together at Young Commons Friday, April 11 to celebrate the life and spirit of Michael Foreman, an Elon student who was killed by a train last year.



Butterflies were released to celebrate the spirit of Michael Foreman, who died one year ago last Friday when he was struck by a train a few yards off campus. ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

Elon entrepreneurs win \$10,000



Seniors Ian Baltutis (left) and RJ Yozwiak (right) answer questions during a live TV interview after accepting an award for their entrepreneurship project. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Laura Wainman
Reporter

For seniors RJ Yozwiak and Ian Baltutis, business administration is much more than a major. After creating their own startup company, "The Vibration Solution, LLC," as a project for an entrepreneurship program at Elon, Yozwiak and Baltutis won \$10,000 as the first place prize from the New Venture Creation Competition at the University of Evansville on April 4.

Yozwiak and Baltutis developed the idea for the product their company sells, Silent Feet, through this entrepreneurship program. The Vibration Solution, LLC is the first operational company to come out of the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

The entrepreneurship concentration of the business administration major is a component of the new Doherty Center, which was started at Elon in 2007. Students are expected to develop a business idea during their first semester course, and in the second semester, they write a

full business plan. The third semester is devoted to actually running the business developed in the last two semesters.

"We simply saw an existing problem that had no good solution," Yozwiak said.

According to the Web site where Silent Feet is available for purchase, www.thevibrationsolution.com, Silent Feet "reduce noise and vibrations caused by your washing machine and dryer from disturbing your living environment."

Strempek was so impressed by the business model Yozwiak and Baltutis created that he recommended they participate in the New Venture Creation Competition. The pair took the suggestion, applied in February and submitted their business proposal in March along with 32 other teams.

They were one of 16 finalists chosen to compete at the University of Evansville on April 4. Yozwiak and Baltutis gave an eight-minute presentation to a panel of seven judges, all accomplished business leaders in the area.

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Molly McGowan
Reporter

By 10:45 p.m. Saturday, when Elon's competitive ballroom team took Elonthon's stage, many of the neon-shirted dancers present had been on their feet for many hours.

But when the first few notes of "She's Sexy and 17" blared out of the speakers and Jamie Gorsuch whipped a black comb out of his pocket with 50s flair, the sea of students erupted into cheers.

Kelly McCarty strode over to her partner, tapped Gorsuch on the shoulder, and with the flirty smiles of teens in a retro high school, they flew into their routine.

Through all their lively triple-steps, drops and under arm turns, the pair was all smiles and kept the audience on its feet, which was the point of having the ballroom team perform for Elonthon at so late an hour, when everyone's energy was starting to wane. Though Gorsuch and McCarty were clearly enjoying themselves on the stage, the dance couple was equally exhausted.

They had just learned their routine at 6:30 the night before, when Elon's Ballroom Dance Club president Kris Hazard met with them in one of the dance studios.

The schedules of dancers and instructor had clashed all throughout the week, so this last-minute meeting was the first time they had been able to rehearse for Elonthon. And Hazard had not choreographed any simple hodgepodge of triple-steps.

Hazard taught them a move where McCarty dropped backwards low into Gorsuch's outstretched arms, and several other new components they had never used in competition before. Gorsuch said that the modified fouette turn was the most difficult move for him to learn, and it did not help that the dancers were nearing crunch time.

"I had about 20 minutes to learn it," he said.

ELONTHON from Page 1

Families keep students dancing

You Gotta Have Faith

A 14-year-old girl enters the room, surrounded by the love and support of her best friends. Her face is glowing brighter than any light in the room, her smile is big and wide. Leigha Martinelli can finally say that she is "doing good."

After spending nearly three years in a hospital bed, listening to doctors tell her and her family it can't be done, that she can't survive — she has. Leigha is a true "miracle child" in every sense of the word.

Steve Martinelli, Leigha's dad, stands by his daughter's side every step of the way, refusing to give up without a fight. Since Leigha's remission almost three years ago, the Martinelli family has truly seen the power of faith.

"It takes everyone praying," Steve said. "You can't just do it by yourself."

For Leigha and her family, this certainly has been true. Friends and family would call while Leigha was in the hospital, just to say they were praying for the Martinellis, and according to Steve, sometimes that is all you need.

"We want people to see what the students do," he said. "Because a lot of times you don't realize the difference that you are making."

Everyone Deserves a Chance

Sitting atop his father's shoulders, Caedon Baute stuck out his tongue and touched it to his father's bald head. Students quickly smiled and were

immediately drawn to the 2-and-a-half-year-old boy.

He began wriggling and moving any way possible so he could get down and play with the students anxiously awaiting his arrival.

Caedon's father, Brian Baute, is an Elon 101 professor and adviser. For him, this event shows the commitment of his students as well as the community.

"Last year, I came and saw a lot of students that I know, and a lot that I don't know," Brian said. "Just the fact that you all care to raise money to help us means a lot."

Caedon, who suffers from seizures as well as Down syndrome, made his second appearance at Elonthon this year. While Caedon's medical situation is serious, it is not life-threatening.

Brian looked into his son's bright eyes as he explained how much being included in this event means to his family.

"We don't have a life-threatening situation, and you all still include us," Brian said. "It is nice to be included."

Keeping the Spirit Alive

A sign hanging on the wall caught the attention of one particular "miracle family." It read: "Rule #1: Never leave a fallen dancer behind."

According to Greg and Linda Larimore, that is how Duke families get through the day. They are there for one another through the ups and downs, and get through it together.

By the time the Larimore family arrived, students had been dancing for

22 hours. Feet were lagging, eyelids were closing and spirits were down. But Greg was determined to change that as he has for the past five years.

With his children, Daniel, 13, and Ashley, 9, by his side, he began to awaken the spirit that keeps them coming back year after year.

"We come back to Elonthon because of the spirit," Greg said. "There is a motivation here to help someone and something better and our kids see that

and looked out at hundreds of Elon students watching her every move, the jitters kicked in. But the encouraging cheers and "Go Kelly! Go Jamie!" from people in the crowd were exhilarating.

"It was fun," McCarty said. "Because I've mostly ever performed ballet, I wasn't used to people cheering in the middle of the routine. So that was cool."

Gorsuch agreed that this new performance aspect of ballroom dancing was thrilling. He said that usually when he and McCarty dance together, it is on a ballroom floor at a competition where technique and patterns count for everything. Dancing to entertain a crowd was a new experience.

"This time, it's not so much about the technique, but how you engage the audience," he said.

The two danced beautifully, energizing the crowd the whole time they were swinging across the stage. That's not to say that it was all easy, though. Both Gorsuch and McCarty's feet hurt for the rest of the weekend, and they were in desperate need of sleep. But it was their passion and hard work that made their performance a success.

"My thighs hurt from that drop, and my ribs are sore from that lift," McCarty said. Smiling, she added, "But that was sexy, so I don't really care."



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer

Kelly McCarty and Jamie Gorsuch of the ballroom dance team perform a smooth move at Elonthon. It was their first appearance at the event.

GETTING IN STEP

Ballroom dancers perform at Elonthon



ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer

An Elon student laughs with one of the children at Elonthon which was held last weekend.

Here, it is all about kids helping kids." Immediately, it seemed as though a spark was lit, and all who before seemed lifeless were dancing again.

The glow of the lights in the dark gym can only be surpassed by the glow of the "miracle families" visiting Elonthon.

Despite the hurdles life has handed them, their ever-present faith and drive has prevented their lights from being turned off.

American Studies minor introduced

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

As a liberal arts school, Elon prides itself on offering an array of courses and academic programs that speak to a variety of disciplines and interests.

Always looking to expand educational opportunities, the university will welcome a brand new minor in Fall 2009.

The American studies minor, though new to Elon, represents an established and well-received interdisciplinary program in liberal arts studies.

For over 50 years, colleges and universities around the United States have supported the development and teaching of American studies.

Scholars from fields ranging from history to science to music and everything in between band together to offer a comprehensive knowledge about everything American.

Seven years ago, faculty from various departments across campus began working on a design for the new minor.

Even earlier efforts had stressed a desire for Elon to offer such a program that supplies students with a truly multifaceted understanding of the country and its many histories.

The American studies minor seems a natural fit for Elon's tradition of offering well-developed, unique programs.

"Elon has long had an interest in interdisciplinary programs," said Dr. Michael Frontani, associate professor of communications. "And American studies reflects this interest. The hope is that we grow a vibrant, evolving program that can meet the interests of our students while introducing them to the rich and varied scholarship being carried out within American studies, by 'Americanists' from many disciplines."

The new minor certainly crosses several schools of education. With the options to take classes in literature, history, political science and philosophy among others, the American studies minor will appeal to students.

In addition to the Concepts in American Studies course, which will first be offered in Spring 2009, the minor requires an introductory level U.S. history course, an American literature course and 12 semester hours of upper level pre-approved courses.

To assure that students gain a broader understanding of some element of American studies, the minor requires that students designate a certain

theme that ties their courses together.

A student can choose to focus on something like the representation of minorities in American history, depending on their personal interests.

This last requirement is something that sets it apart from other disciplines. And it has garnered excitement among the programs planners.

"This [element] of a concentration is very exciting, as it allows students with a shared general knowledge of U.S. history, literature and culture, to select concentrations of courses that reflect individual interests, and to take those interests as far as they are willing to carry it," Frontani said.

Of course, at its core, the minor investigates the state of our country: its past, present and possible future outcomes.

"At its core, the field requires the assimilation of numerous perspectives and conclusions ... describing the U.S.," Frontani said. "The minor provides a great opportunity for students to study U.S. culture according to their own interests, and on their own terms, while being introduced to the tools necessary to deeper understanding of the culture."

For more information about the American studies minor, contact Frontani at mfrontani@elon.edu.

Minor Requirements

24 semester hours from the following courses:

1. **HST 121:**
U.S. History through 1865
- HST 122:**
U.S. History since 1865
- HST 123:**
U.S. and N.C. since 1865
2. **ENG 223:**
American Literature I
- ENG 224:**
American Literature II
3. **AMS 210:**
Concepts in American Studies
- 4-6. Three approved 300-400 level courses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Students present at national conference

More than 40 Elon students traveled to Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md., last weekend to present individual research projects at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

Some student presenters displayed their research visually in poster sessions, while others led 20-minute oral sessions explaining topics. Research subjects ranged across a wide variety of academic disciplines, from physics to literature and education to zoology.

NCUR was founded in 1987 and has since provided a forum for sharing and promoting undergraduate research projects across many fields of study.

Detwiler wins Udall Scholarship

Junior Breanna Detwiler was named a 2008 Morris K. Udall Scholar last week and will receive \$5,000 for one year of college studies. The Udall Scholarship is a prestigious national award given to individuals planning to pursue careers related to the environment.

College Republicans Barbecue

Elon University's College Republicans will host a barbecue dinner on April 16 in honor of Ronald Reagan. Nine statewide candidates will be in attendance including candidate for governor, Bob Orr, lieutenant governor candidates Greg Dority and Jim Snyder and Secretary of State candidate Jack Sawyer.

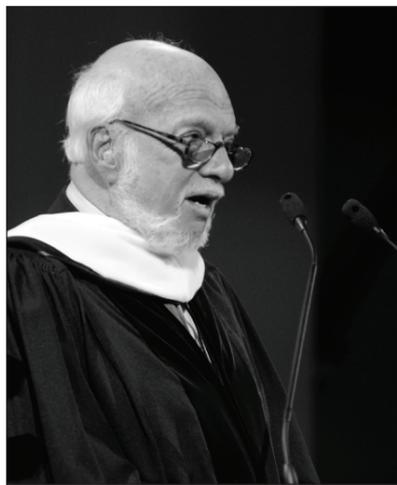
Catered by Hursey's Bar-B-Q, the Reagan Dinner will be held at McCoy Commons at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for students, \$10 general admission in advance; tickets will be \$15 at the door.

Corrections:

Alcohol Task Force

In an April 9 opinion article titled, "Are the Alcohol Task Force's recommendations practical?" The Pendulum incorrectly stated that Elon 101 was a requirement of all incoming freshmen. It is, instead, an optional course that 95 percent of students choose to take.

Broadway-themed convocation entertains, honors students



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor
Hal Prince had the audience in stitches at Spring Convocation last week.

CONVOCAION from page 1

received by the student body: You have the future in your hands, and time is on your side.

"As a senior this was a preview to what we will see in just a few weeks and we're a little choked up but I am proud of my education thus far," senior Ashley Pearson said. "I think the overall experience was great; I think it showed what Elon does well."

Two performing arts alumni also spoke at convocation, keeping with the theatrical theme of the event.

The Elon community recognized all students listed on the Dean's and President's list for the 2007-08 academic school year, as well as the upcoming graduate class and members of the Elon Society, an Elon giving group.



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor
Dozens of performing arts students performed numbers from "West Side Story," "Crazy for You" and "The Phantom of the Opera" at last week's convocation.

whazappenin?

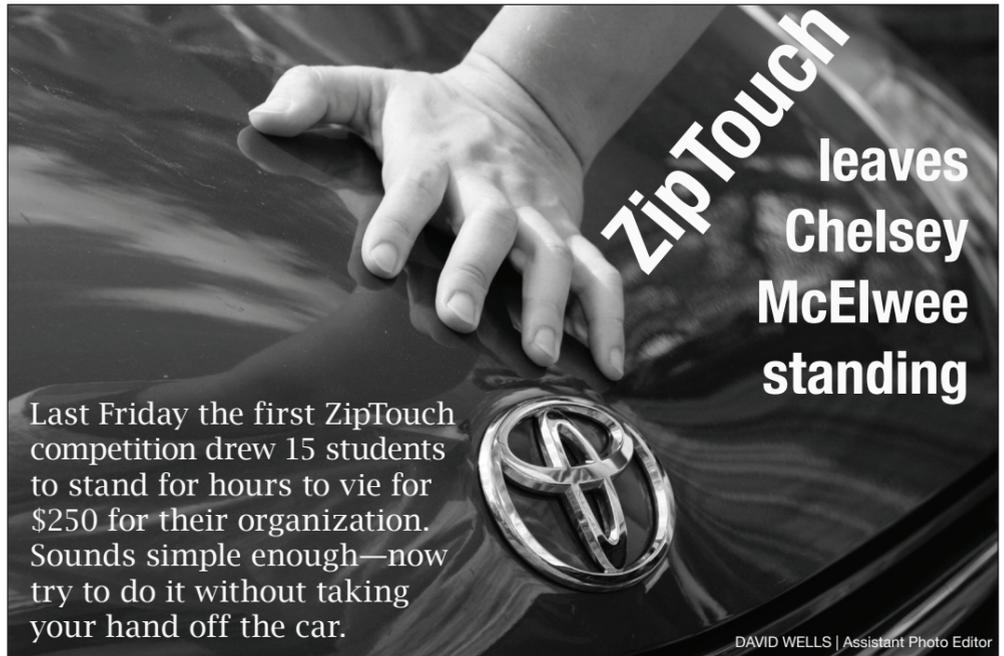
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Above: Junior Kevin Kline devours his dinner atop the Prius while still staying in contact with the vehicle. Kline battled in Catch Phrase, trivia and held his bladder in an attempt to win the prize for Phoenix14.



Last Friday the first ZipTouch competition drew 15 students to stand for hours to vie for \$250 for their organization. Sounds simple enough—now try to do it without taking your hand off the car.

DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

Below: Ranging from Greek to environmental organizations, participants stood for over four hours in front of Moseley. Hosted by the Elon Sustainability Team, the event was aimed to raise awareness of the ZipCars on campus.



Representing the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, freshman Chelsey McElwee took home the grand prize, totaling \$250. McElwee said her organization will use the money for an AIDS prevention walk in Charlotte.

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WEEKLY DINNER SPECIALS & NIGHTLY DRINK SPECIALS

The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty as well as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

Editorial

Loss of humanity at the hands of technology

The age we live in is truly one that is ruled and dictated by technology. Today, everything people do is in the context of technology and constant connectivity. Many argue that mankind's constant need for technological expansion is degrading society into a culture that is obsessed with the here and now, only focusing on the future and rarely on the past.

Many scholars in academic circles argue that the human race is losing touch with the natural world and is replacing it with an artificial and superficial world. Rarely do people actually take the time anymore to appreciate what makes mankind actually human, what gives them their humanity.

This is the point that John Paul Russo made in his recent lecture at Elon. A professor of English at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., Russo warned against the extinction of the humanities. He discussed this rising trend of technological dependence, or rather the decline of the humanities, being the social sciences of literature, history, language and the arts.

Russo cited that literary reading rates are down on all demographics, and reading levels have declined across the board, especially among the traditionally higher educated. People are reading for leisure less, as our culture has quickly transformed into a visual one. People figure why read the book when they can watch the abbreviated and often misconstrued movie version.

Another point that Russo commented on was the transformation of language after the introduction of technology. Russo said that technology establishes ambiguous words, words without meaning or any deeper connotation,

as its diction. If that confuses anybody, simply take a look at the outrageous language of "text-speak." The "words" like "lol," "brb" and "ttyl" now dominate people's written language and even their spoken language at times. A fuming creative writing professor vented when a student used "brb" in an oral sentence. "Be right back" has three syllables; you're not saving any time by hacking it down to "brb," he said.

Even more so than literature, history is disregarded as a fundamental humanity. Russo commented on The Guardian's

the classroom. "While [student's] handwriting was atrocious, their typing skills were phenomenal," Russo said. People often can't imagine life without some form of technology present to keep them entertained or connected. People need that cell phone to text their friends with, or need that mp3 player with which they can listen to their favorite tunes.

A religion professor recently challenged his students to a task that seemed daunting to many. The assignment was to put away all cell phones, all iPods, all forms of

Russo explained how the English department once received a fax that was sent miles into the air to a satellite and was relayed back down to the fax machine in their office. The fax came from the office next door in the same building.

"Face to face contact has been replaced with face to machine contact," Russo said.

Another one of Russo's points was surrounding technology's impact on the world in more of a physical sense than an academic sense. Russo commented on the environmental degradation of the Florida everglades, stating, "It takes more technology to stop technology from destroying the environment." This is coupled with environmental issues that seem to have no solution like global warming. It's a global case of entropy, and Russo made it seem as though little could be done against the growing destruction of technology. As Russo also said, "progress is irreversible and unstoppable."

Is society truly destroying its foundation and transforming into a baseless culture that many academics view as soulless? Unfortunately, while Russo did outline what he obviously views as an important issue, he failed to detail any specific solutions for the problem.

He didn't outline how to reignite literary interest in youth in the United States, or how to pique curiosity over history. While this may stand as a huge issue in the way of the future of the humanities in the way of academia, it seems little can be done short of an entire cultural reevaluation of what is valued and important to society.

Literary reading rates are down on all demographics, and reading levels have declined across the board, especially among the traditionally higher educated.

discounting of British students not knowing who Winston Churchill is, saying, "O Guardian, whom are you guarding?"

But in this era where culture and society is shifting and evolving so fast, almost nothing is what it was like in the past. How are people supposed to relate to eras in the past when it was such a different time back then? More so than just a time difference, the past seems like it is worlds away from where people are right now. Students "view the past as strange, confusing and unnecessary," Russo said.

"This generation was reared in the midst of a communications revolution," Russo said. For many of the students of this age, the computer was a natural and integral part of

connectivity to the outside world, and go out into a secluded space for half an hour and just sit, disregarding all commitments and engagements that keep society in its constant rat race of life. Picture it as a 30-minute experience of Into the Wild.

How many people can envision their lives without the constant connection to the world? For many people, their lives rely on the interconnectivity that technology provides. Russo described how 15 years ago the office in his English department had four secretaries and seven machines. Now it has four secretaries and in the range of 50 machines, ranging from fax machines to computers to printers to cell phones to microwaves.

Illustrating the Issues



MORGAN LITTLE | Cartoonist

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of the Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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Opinions

Gender issues go unnoticed among frequent talks of race

I first realized I was a feminist when I was watching coverage of Hillary Clinton before the New Hampshire primary. "Everybody in this race is talking about change," she said. "But what does that mean?" Before she could answer her own question, a man in the crowd jumped up from his seat, holding a sign saying "Iron my shirt!" while shouting his misogynist message again and again.

I was outraged and jumped up from my chair shouting, "Iron your own damn shirt!" at the television screen. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, took it all in stride. "Oh the remnants of sexism are alive and well," she said



Derek Kiszely
Columnist

coolly as she watched the man being dragged away by security guards. I was not aware of the extent of sexism in the United States until Hillary ran for president. I was never naive enough to believe that Hillary would get an easy ride to the White House just because she is a woman, but journalists seem fixated on this one aspect, as if her gender wholly defines her candidacy in a negative way.

The more I see that sexism is alive and well, the more I feel obligated to stand up for women who, more often than not, won't even stand up for each other. I hear blatant examples of sexism on a daily basis; they're so ubiquitous that it's easy to internalize

the messages without noticing that men are treated differently.

Are we okay with the "take the uppity woman down a peg" approach, and yet outraged when it is applied to race? It's hypocritical and I can't help wondering what would happen if a group of white males greeted Obama with garden tools and signs saying, "Work my fields."

All Obama ever talks about is how he is an "agent of change," that he's the only presidential candidate who can bring about this ever-elusively defined "change" to America. But you know what would be just as big a change? Electing a woman for president. I'm not trying to trivialize the accomplishments of Obama, but this article isn't about racism in politics, it's about sexism. Hillary said it herself, "I am running to break through the highest and hardest glass ceiling."

It doesn't help sexist stereotypes continue to undermine the credibility of female politicians like Hillary Clinton. My own sister, a Hillary supporter, has been guilty of scrutinizing the Senator's appearance and focusing on her clothing and hair more than her policies.

It's a double standard; if female politicians show any emotion in public, they are criticized of being "weak" and their ability to be a strong leader is called into question. They are labeled "strident" by the media if they show an iota of aggression or ambition, and if they wear pantsuits instead of dresses or skirts they are accused of trying too hard to defy gender stereotypes. It's a lose-lose situation for Hillary and other female politicians who have been victims of appallingly pointless criticisms.

Some of my Republican friends

have accused Hillary Clinton of being everything from "an emotionless, cold-hearted witch" to a "cold and calculating robot bent on world domination and the socialization of health care." One of them even tried to make the case that Hillary Clinton was the Antichrist.

Interestingly enough, all of these friends happened to be girls.

After hearing Obama's speech concerning race, I feel as though it's about time Hillary Clinton gave a "gender speech." Unfortunately, it doesn't seem as though she is about to defend her femininity to anyone, which means I'm going to have to stand up for her.

Supporting Hillary Clinton is a widely unpopular action; of that I have no delusions. I wore a "Hillary Clinton" sticker around campus one day, and a girl that I had never talked to actually pointed at my sticker and said, "Ew."

It seems as though everyone has jumped on the Obama-bandwagon these days, and I can understand why. A powerful speaker who eloquently delivers a message of hope is an appealing and iconic symbol in these uncertain times.

But women should think twice about the kind of message they're sending. It's as if women don't care that they are still being treated unfairly in society. More often than not, it's the women who are guilty of sexism and making judgments too quickly.

Maybe they're content with the thought of staying at home and ironing their husband's shirts for the rest of their lives. I don't know; I just hope that I'll hear more about Clinton's opinions and qualifications and less about her hairstyles and fashion sense.

Greek life does not make you any better



Chris Ford
Columnist

Walking around on campus lately, I have noticed something. A whole lot of the T-shirts being worn by members of different social Greek Life organizations seem to

declare the superiority of their particular fraternity or sorority. One shirt stated, "Only the best get crowned," and another that said, "Don't hate us because we're perfect ... hate us because you're not."

What is it about certain members of Greek Life organizations that makes them feel the need to put others down to declare their "superiority?" Why is it that there seems to be such arrogance among so many in Greek Life concerning their organization? Obviously, this does not include all people in any fraternity or sorority, but there are enough people with the apparent attitude of superiority that it is very noticeable.

Here is a newsflash for them: Nobody is perfect! We are all students at the same university, and we are all unique and talented in our own way, and being in a certain organization certainly doesn't make anyone better than someone else. Is it insecurity or a lack of self-importance that fuels the need to put down somebody else by telling anyone who sees your shirt that they are inferior? Or is it simply arrogance?

I personally am not in a social Greek Life organization. I do not have anything against a social organization of any kind, and Greek Life at Elon does do a great deal of good around campus and the community. But why tell everyone that you are better because of your organization and at the same time insult others? What good are you accomplishing?

I have many friends in social Greek Life organizations, and this is by no means a stab at any one person or any one organization; it is merely a commentary on the prevalence of self-promotion among many fraternities and sororities on Elon's Campus. It is something that accomplishes very little outside of feeding personal needs and telling others that they are somehow inferior to you, just because they aren't in your "special club."

I would encourage Greek Life to exercise a bit more humility when it comes to making T-shirts and formulating opinions regarding their own organization. There often seems to be a rift between the social Greek Life organizations and many other organizations on campus, and it would most likely not be so prevalent if it weren't for the attitude of excessive self-importance among many in social Greek Life.

Science redefines the human experience

If you ask someone of the right age, they can tell you exactly where they were when Kennedy was shot, when Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the moon or when the World Trade Center collapsed. Certain memories immediately imprint on our collective consciousness because they are so powerful. But not every transformational event is a single televised moment. A number of recent events are quietly transforming not only the human worldview, but also the human species itself.

As of last fall, widespread genetic testing became a viable commercial enterprise. About 10 million DNA differences separate any two humans (different A's, C's, T's and G's). You can now pay \$1,000 to learn about half a million of those differences in your own genome. In the next few years, most of the 10 million will be available, and then the prices will probably drop significantly. Although we still don't know what most of the differences mean, we have deciphered some, such as those that cause cystic fibrosis. Genetic discoveries are continually being made, to the point where many more DNA differences in humans will be explained throughout the next

10 years. Some of those are likely to be controversial, such as genetic markers for intelligence.

In the short term, genetic testing drives a new age of preventative medicine where we can predict and treat certain diseases before they happen. In the context of reproduction, genetic testing can also be used to select certain human traits over others through preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) or by using the information to decide if an abortion should be considered. For better or for worse, by selecting traits we can now control our own evolution. This control will be further extended by a variety of genetic engineering techniques which are in research trials. These techniques could be used to cure diseases, through gene therapy, and enhance humanity.

An even more radical development lies at the interface between humans and computers. Several years ago at Duke University, researchers successfully wired the brain of a monkey to a computer such that the monkey could move a cursor on a computer screen just by thinking. More recent experiments show that monkeys can perform complex tasks with their mind like moving a robotic arm. If the monkey's computer is linked to the Internet, a robotic arm can be moved from hundreds of miles away.

Consider the experiments at Duke along with another set of experiments by a research team working for the U.S. Department of Energy. They have developed an artificial eye that allows a person to see well enough to read and function in the real world. This is a breakthrough for people who have become blind due to macular degeneration and other problems. Vision is not 20-20 yet, but "perfect" or even superhuman vision may not be far away. Furthermore, although there has to be a hard-wired connection to a person's optic nerve, the eye itself doesn't have to be located on a person's head. Theoretically, you could see in one place and be in another.

Imagine the dual implications of being able to move mechanical parts with your mind and see somewhere that you're not physically present. Perhaps you would like to be an airplane? Or a satellite? Or go on vacation without yourself (whatever that means)? Traditional boundaries of the human condition may not be boundaries, after all.

Genetic testing and the human-machine interface are just two examples of a "brave new world" that lies ahead for the human species. There are many other examples at the interface of the so-called G.R.I.N. technologies — genomics, robotics, informatics and nanotechnology.

The technological progress is now rapid enough that many memorable moments look like blurry signs that we speed past on an interstate. You might want to start paying attention though, because re-defining what it means to be human will impact communications, business, education and virtually every other aspect of society. The future of our species may have passed by longer ago than you think.



Jeffrey Coker
Guest Columnist

GRAPHICS & STORY BY Shelley Russell Special Projects Editor

Fast facts, innovative entries and easy-to-read articles make Wikipedia a popular site for students and professors alike. But when all is said and done, how accurate is the content?

Quality tests conducted by experts who reviewed articles from multiple online encyclopedias, including Encyclopedia Britannica and Microsoft Encarta, rated Wikipedia as an equal among its competitors.

Time Magazine reported that while the site is vandalized daily, repairs usually occur within minutes or hours by the site's wide pool of users, dedicated to protecting the content.

Founded in 1999 by Jimmy Wales, 39, Wikipedia has exploded with success, now boasting more than 600,000 articles in English, and more than 2 million total articles.

The site's free licensing agreement, allowing content to be copied or redistributed for both commercial and non-commercial use is a component that enhances the popularity of the project.

More recently, Wikipedia has been used as a public relations tool among institutions and organizations. While Elon University does have a Wikipedia entry, Dan Anderson, assistant vice president and director of University Relations, confirmed that University Relations is not responsible for the content about Elon.

"I do not think that Wikipedia is promotional in nature," Anderson said. "We do not use it to promote university programs, but we do like to keep it as an accurate source of information."

Anderson remembers correcting Elon's Wikipedia entry twice during the past few years, after he had been alerted of an error on the site.

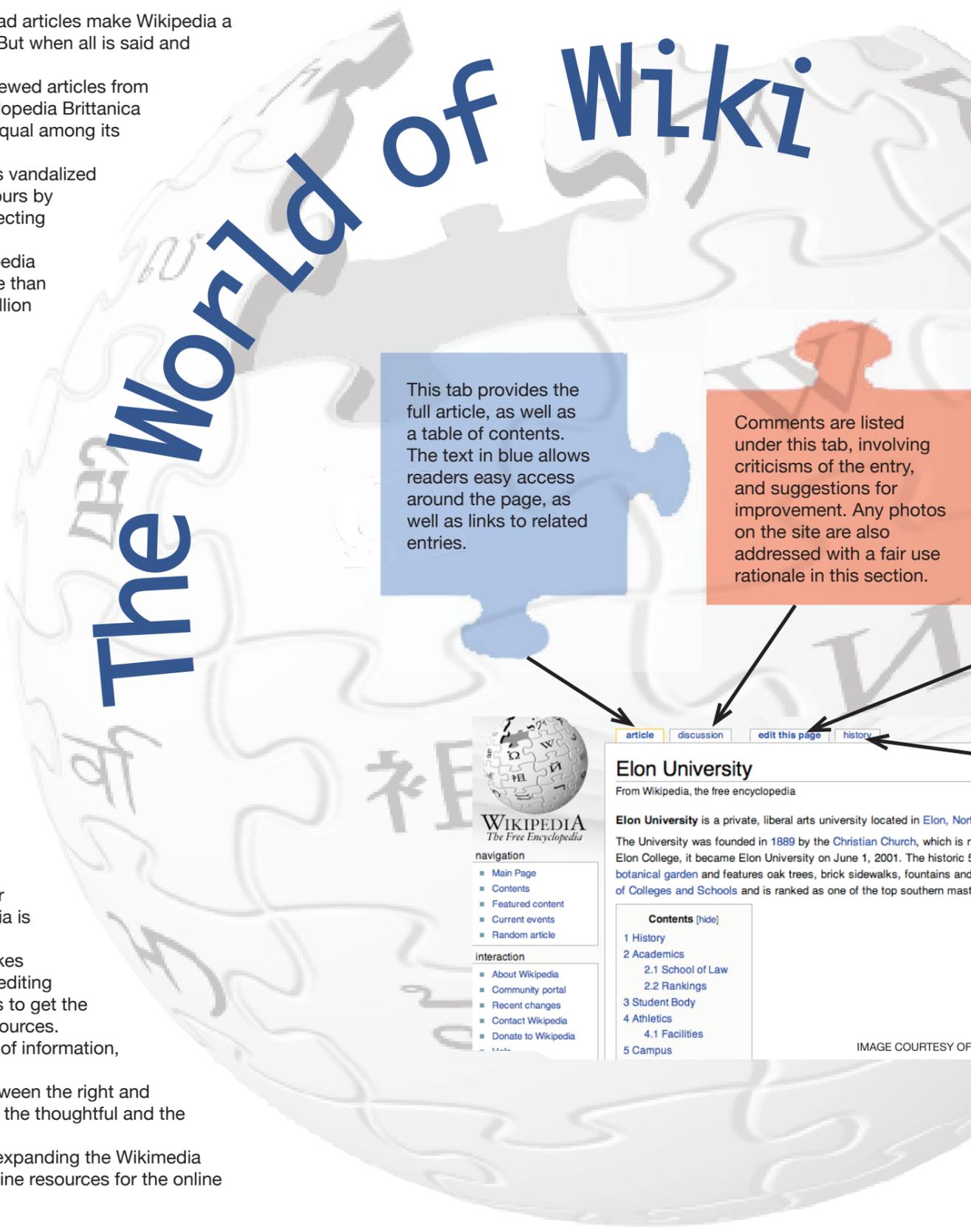
Wales spoke at a conference in July 2005, about what he called an "unusual and chaotic" organization structure of the site. With millions of contributors and a standby crew of volunteer system administrators 24 hours a day, Wikipedia is more reliable than most people think.

Wales did acknowledge the inevitable mistakes on the site, but he also spoke of the extensive editing process and dialogue among anonymous users to get the facts right and confirm information with other sources.

While most users honor the valuable source of information, some users are disrespectful.

"The real struggle [with Wikipedia] is not between the right and the left," Wales said. "It is between the party of the thoughtful and the party of the jerks."

Wales still holds confidence in his creation, expanding the Wikimedia Foundation to include many other free form online resources for the online community.



WHAT PROFESSORS HAVE TO SAY

THE GOOD

Wikipedia makes information available to everyone, and although there are qualms with the idea of the site, Elon professors are not completely discounting the idea.

English Professor Paula Patch values the philosophy behind Wikipedia.

"The creation and consumption of information should be accessible to anyone and everyone," she said.

Dr. Jessie Moore likes the idea of Wikipedia because it is a good resource of introductory information on a topic. In addition, Wikipedia offers opportunities for others to review articles.

"The site provides useful tools to let people evaluate the page," Moore said.

In addition to the editing tools in the site, there is a discussion tab that allows users to voice opinions. Patch has her College Writing students engage in a project to assess the validity of Wikipedia, as well as recognize limits to the site.

"When students take the responsibility for learning in this way, they tend to retain the information better than when they're simply presented with one more rule," Patch said.

Professors have mixed feelings about citing Wikipedia, but most professors will not disagree with the idea that the site is a valuable preliminary information source.

Consensus: Wikipedia is a useful resource for general information that gives everyone access to a free online encyclopedia, but the information should not be used without verification from other credible sources.

THE BAD

While the site may be helpful as a first look at a topic, there is no doubt that some major errors have been found on the site.

Wikipedia has posted articles announcing deaths of public figures who are still very much alive, and presented false or inaccurate information.

"The big problem with Wikipedia is the fact that anyone can upload and edit," communications professor David Copeland said. "Finding who has done the writing and editing is almost impossible."

While students are often met with frustration as professors repeat the familiar phrase: "Do not use Wikipedia for this project," professors have reasons for objecting to the site.

"At any time, any information within any entry may be inaccurate," English professor Paula Patch said. "This is most professors' biggest concern about Wikipedia."

Patch, along with other professors, have said that they use the site to gather information quickly about a new topic, but Patch remains well aware of the potential bias in Wikipedia articles.

She calls this "systematic bias," meaning that there is limitation in terms of information presented on the site, to issues that are either current, or chosen by Wikipedia writers because of a personal interest in the topic at hand.

Consensus: Although it may be a good source for fast information, no entry on the site should be read in confidence that it is completely accurate. Students should not rely on Wikipedia, as it is often difficult to identify the authors of each entry.

A Wikipedia article declared Sinbad dead on March 14, 2000. The article reported that the comedian and actor had died of a heart attack. The error was corrected one hour after the post. Sinbad is 52 years old.

EXPLORING WIKIPEDIA

MYTH
Anyone can arbitrarily add articles to Wikipedia and the articles will remain on the Web indefinitely.

FACT
Newly-added articles appear on a new page feed, so site administrators are immediately aware of additions to the site. A "Votes for Deletion" page allows users to participate in a discussion about whether or not to keep questionable articles on the site.

THE FOUNDER



Jimmy Wales, 39, began the Wikipedia project in 1999.

This tab is accessible to anonymous users, as well as those with accounts. This tab allows additions or corrections to be made to the entry.

THE VISION

“Wikipedia begins with a very radical idea, and that is for all of us to imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given access to the sum of all human knowledge.”
- Jimmy Wales, founder

NEUTRAL POINT OF VIEW POLICY

Wikipedia runs on this core value of cooperation. Wales describes this policy as being non-negotiable.

PEER REVIEW

Recently changed pages are monitored consistently.

PERSONAL WATCH LIST

If pages are edited, users who set up these lists will be informed so that they can double-check new entries and correct any data that is wrong.

EDITS BY ANONYMOUS USERS

According to Wales, most edits are done by between 600 and 1,000 semi-professionals who frequently contribute to content on Wikipedia.

NEW PAGE FEED

Each time a new entry is posted on Wikipedia, administrators can view the entries on this feed, so new entries that may be misleading or incorrect rarely go unnoticed for long periods of time.

WIKIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Provides an easy-to-use software that allows users to self-monitor their work. Changes are highlighted in red, so users can easily view new additions.

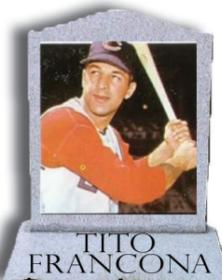
A complete history of updates and site edits can be viewed here. Under this tab, users can view each entry at any stage.

North Carolina.
...now the United Church of Christ. Formerly known as ... 75 acre (2.3 km²) campus has been designated a ... lakes. Elon is accredited by the Southern Associatio ... er's-level universities by U.S. News & World Report.

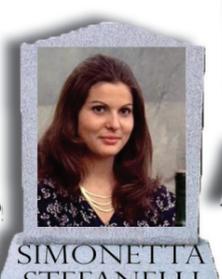
HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/ELON_UNIVERSITY

WIKIPEDIA OBITUARIES OF THE UNDEAD

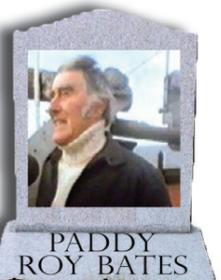
IMAGES COURTESY OF WWW.GROVE.UFL.EDU, WWW.EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG, WWW.ANSWERS.COM & WWW.DERBYDEADPOOL.CO.UK



Tito Francona, retired baseball player and father of Boston Red Sox manager **Terry Francona**, was declared dead in November 2004. Francona is currently 74 years old.



Italian actress **Simonetta Stefanelli** was reported dead by Wikipedia in 2006. The site asserted that Stefanelli had died of cancer. Stefanelli, born in 1954, is now 54 years old.



Paddy Roy Bates, former pirate radio broadcaster and founder of the Principality of Sealand, a sea fort in the North Sea, was pronounced dead by Wikipedia writers on January 31, 2006 of Prader-Willi syndrome. Bates is 86 years old.

WIKIMEDIA MYTHS

MYTH

All information on Wikipedia is edited by anonymous users who can delete or add any information to entries on the site.

FACT

Only 18 percent of edits on the site are from anonymous users, according to Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia and the Wikimedia foundation. Wales spoke at a conference, saying that most edits are completed by about 1,000 semi-professionals who work on the bulk of the Web site.

MYTH

Information on Wikipedia is inaccurate and unreliable.

FACT

While the site does have some factual errors, articles are continuously edited and updated. A German quality test on the site placed Wikipedia's above Microsoft Encarta's database in terms of accuracy and content, according to founder Jimmy Wales.

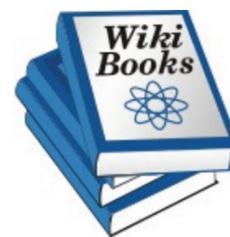
THE WIKIMEDIA EMPIRE

Wiktionary

A free, multilingual dictionary with thousands of entries offered in 10 different languages.



A collection of memorable quotations in multiple languages, including quote translations and sources, if available.



A database with more than 28,900 pages of open-context textbooks created by users. The books cover multiple subjects from cooking and arts, to business and biology.



WIKISOURCE

An online library including collections of free-content material from thousands of authors.



WIKINEWS

A news Web site updated daily. Site visitors can view articles in progress and volunteer to write stories.



WIKISPECIES

A directory of species, including plant, animal, fungi, bacteria, archaea and protista. The Web site currently has 126,499 articles.



MediaWiki

A free software site, providing information on the MediaWiki software used to power sites for the Wikipedia foundation. Free downloads are available.



WIKIVERSITY

A Web site that invites visitors to access learning resources and materials in departments such as humanities and life sciences. Active learning projects are also listed on the site.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A database with more than 2 million media files. Anyone may contribute to the site, which offers pictures and images in categories such as astronomy, art, landscapes and architecture.



WIKIMANIA

A site describing Wikimania, the yearly conference attended by Wikimedia contributors. The 2008 conference will be held in Alexandria, Egypt.

Features



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

Sophomore John Hitchcock weeds his plot of land over the weekend at the Elon Community Garden. Hitchcock serves as the garden's assistant director, teaching his peers lessons including how to grow a "pizza garden."

Garden FAST FACTS

LOCATION: Behind the Vera Richardson Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life
COST: Plots range from \$5 to \$20

GREEN thumbin' to make somethin'

Student gardeners create and maintain the community garden in the shadow of the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life

Sarah Beth Costello
Reporter

In the side yard of the Truitt Center is an oasis of plump strawberries, ripe melons and thick zucchinis grow, seemingly oblivious to the drought affecting North Carolina. Members of the Elon Community Garden tend their plots while friendships grow.

There are no prerequisites for those who want to rent a plot. Gardeners don't need experience or any gardening knowledge.

"[The garden] is open to anyone as long as you consider yourself a member of the community," said junior Breanna Detwiler, director of the Elon Community Garden. About 95 people from Elon are involved with the garden.

"There are about 10 people who you can be pretty sure you'll see on a given week," Detwiler said. "There are other people who are there, but not there every week."

Though gardening is a time-consuming endeavor, many students, faculty, staff and community members are involved in the garden. Biology professor Antonio Izzo recently rented a plot. Izzo saw an advertisement on E-net for the garden and immediately signed up.

When Izzo was a graduate student at the University of California-Berkeley, he was

involved with a community garden.

"The thing I thought was neat about it was it was like an oasis, and I was exposed to a tremendous amount of variety," he said.

As a father, Izzo appreciates the educational aspect of the garden. He said his children are learning that food must be grown; it doesn't just appear. He enjoys working together as a community and forming friendships with the other gardeners.

Students are taking advantage of the community garden as well. Many are involved through organizations like the Sierra Club and Students for Peace and Justice.

Freshman Shana Cooperstein rented a plot for the spring semester.

Though she doesn't have gardening experience, she decided to rent a plot because of encouragement from her professors to be "greener." Cooperstein has not begun planting yet because of the rain, but she hopes to plant strawberries and flowers.

"[The garden] is something I'd like to share with my friends," she said. "It will be fun."

Many others have also volunteered their time. The Elon Grounds crew provides seeds and leaves for the soil, and members from the faculty/staff and the Elon College Fellows Living-Learning Community

volunteer their time.

The community garden is a venue for meeting new people and learning new things. Detwiler and sophomore John Hitchcock, the garden's assistant director, hold workshops and work days. Sometimes members of the garden take field trips to a local farmer's market.

"We teach [the other gardeners] how to do something fun," Hitchcock said. Recent lessons include how to create a "pizza garden" by growing basil and tomatoes.

According to Detwiler, the community garden was created to provide food for the Good Shepherd's Kitchen. This organization, run by Allied Churches of Alamance County, provides meals for the homeless and other individuals who can't afford lunch. Last year, the gardeners were able to provide an abundance of food to the Good Shepherd's Kitchen.

Detwiler and Hitchcock have new goals for this year's harvest. They have created the Food for Families program, and said they hope the program will provide healthy, nutritious food to local families in need.

For students interested in becoming involved but lacking a green thumb, Izzo recommends growing zucchini, a vegetable he says anyone can grow regardless of ability.

Student starts stunt driving after driver's safety course

Laura Wainman
Reporter

Justin Berger has turned a life-long love for cars into an exciting, though dangerous, hobby. This freshman loves stunt driving.

Berger says his interest in stunt driving began when he took a Teen Safe Driving course. Once he learned that he could control cars, he began to pursue stunts.

For now, stunt driving is just a hobby for Berger, who hasn't yet driven in any competitions or races, but said he definitely wants to pursue more stunt driving opportunities in the future.

"I wouldn't necessarily recommend that anyone else participate in this activity," he said. "But if I could make stunt driving my career, I definitely would."

Berger's most memorable moment of stunt driving did bring him to the brink of injury. He attempted his favorite move, a reverse 180, in an area not big enough for the move. His car's engine stalled, the braking system locked, the power steering was gone and the car stopped right before going over a hill.

"I've never been injured while driving and my knowledge of how to control a car has actually helped me a lot," Berger said. "I had an accident once, but it would have been much worse if I didn't know how to regain

control of the car."

Many may wonder why Berger would want to take part in this dangerous sport, but for Berger, the experience is worth the risks.

"For a while I did it as a stress reliever," Berger said. "My mind would forget about everything else happening in my life, and focus in on the road. Now, I do it for the rush it gives me."

Some other colleges, such as Clemson and N.C. State, have Society of Aeronautical Engineers programs that offer students the chance to participate in formula racing.

Under faculty guidance, the students make their own cars then compete in races against other schools. Elon currently does not have any opportunity like this for its students, but Berger may try to instate a similar program at Elon. He thinks it might be difficult since the engineering program at Elon is fairly small.

According to Berger, there are many misconceptions surrounding his favorite sport. For example, most people assume that a fancy, tricked out car is necessary to being a successful stunt driver.

"As long as you know what you are doing behind the wheel, you really don't even need a souped up car — like in the Bourne movie series," Berger said. "Those cars weren't that special but they had excellent drivers controlling them."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Freshman Justin Berger enjoys stunt driving so much that he risks injury, including one time when he performed a reverse 180 and nearly sent his car over a hill.



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Sophomore Jamie Gorsuch tours a group of prospective students in front of Moseley Center.

CAROLINE MATTHEWS | Photographer

Ansley Labarre
Reporter

Strolling backward through Koury Athletic Center, senior Dan Smith is advocating free T-shirts. As he weaves his Friday morning tour group of prospective students through the building's hallways, he mentions all campus extracurricular activities that reward students with free T-shirts.

Smith is one of Elon's student tour guides working on campus for the admissions office to help Elon promote itself to prospective students. All guides adapt their own style that personalizes the tour, just as Smith links the stops around campus by noting how often student participation will yield a free T-shirt.

Their mission is to get students to apply to the university, or to persuade those who have already been accepted

to attend, according to senior tour guide Chris Miller. The guides' unusual approaches to the tour offer a student's personal view of campus life.

"Basically, we're trying to sell Elon without lying," Miller said.

The rush comes during spring semester, when spring acceptance letters are sent. Phoenix Fridays result in the sidewalks being jammed with fathers and mothers holding binders stuffed with collegiate brochures and wide-eyed prospective students absorbing the campus. Phoenix Fridays are held for admitted students, offering opportunities to sit in on a class, join in lunch with current students and, of course, explore the campus on a tour.

High school junior Shellie Marshall of Morganton, N.C., said she decided to tour the university after hearing her teachers speak highly of Elon, including its

workable size.

"I'm drawn to the smaller environment," she said.

Junior guide Taryn Kadar agreed. She said she enjoys seeing people she knows while giving a tour because it evokes that same sense of community.

Tour guides work to promote the unique aspects of the university. At most, guides will give one tour a day and work two days a week. They walk their groups through the business center, the library, McEwen Dining Hall and even a dorm room to reveal the various settings of the college environment.

Guides are given a thick book during training to describe these aspects of Elon's campus. Though encouraged to read it, they do not recite it. Eventually, guides fall into a routine, Miller said, where they know what they will say about each campus location. Improvisation occurs mostly when prospective students ask questions.

The most commonly asked question is a personal one: Prospective students want to know why their specific tour guide chose to attend Elon.

The answer is most effectively given when they inject their personal experiences into the tour. Therefore, every guide gives his own version of the campus tour, explains sophomore guide Jenna Levy.

"The hardest part about giving a tour is that there are so many things to talk about," Kadar said. "You could give a tour for five hours, but instead you have to make sure you are talking about the right things to keep the interest of the diverse tour group."

Whether it's a study abroad trip, organizational membership or simply the ubiquitous free T-shirt, guides use their positive experiences to appeal to their groups as fellow students rather than university employees.

OVERHEARD AT ELON U

"Ever walked in on a conversation and wish you hadn't? Overhear a comment that made you wonder just how rigorous Elon's admission process is? Here's the place to share."

Sophomore Nick Massa created "Overheard by Elon U," a Facebook group that highlights ridiculous comments made by Elon students. The group features daily posts and hosts nearly 400 members.

"What do you call people from Spain? Is it Spanishians?"

- overheard by Carl Hairston

"No, I said I'm at Colonnades! There's no such thing as 'colander!'"

- overheard by Elyse Granger

"I could have sworn someone told me that Cinco de Mayo already happened!"

- overheard by Krista Naposki

"I run into her a lot on my rollerblades ... on purpose."

- overheard by Nick Masa

SGA

Student Government Association



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Arts & Entertainment

Claudia Emerson Pulitzer Prize winner shares "Late Wife" book and secrets to creative writing with community

Caroline Matthews
Design Editor

At 28, Claudia Emerson decided to change her career from rural mail carrier and used bookstore owner to poet. Little did she know that her passion would turn into the Pulitzer Prize winning book, "Late Wife."

Emerson visited Elon University on Wednesday evening in a two-session presentation sponsored by the Liberal Arts Forum and College of Arts and Sciences. In a question and answer session followed by a reading from her prize-winning book, the poet shared her passions, writing processes, love for literature and excitement for life.

"I feel that for the first time I have come into a real writing community," she said. "It is heartfelt and I am very appreciative."

The collection she read featured the relationships between her current husband, Kent Ippolito, herself and his late wife. Emerson enjoys writing from outside perspectives, including Ippolito's wife, who died of lung cancer, and discovering new emotions.

"Late Wife," she said, was based on the fusion of joy and sadness.

The audience was so enthralled during her reading that the silence was cut by only the sound of the turning pages.

"She really motivated me to work harder to make my writing stronger," sophomore Shenee Howard

said. "I want to look to ordinary things in my life for inspiration. As soon as I left, I wanted to write."

Seated on the stage of Whitley Auditorium with her legs crossed, hanging over the edge, Emerson intimately discussed the strategy within her poems among creative writing and English professors and students. Draft now, she said, find a mentor, define a subject and idea prior to writing, take risks and revise, revise, revise.

"Abandon your work and then begin again," she said. "Try changing the point of view and don't let yourself become too familiar with the same technique."

Inspiration hits Emerson by the minute. She said she likes to go outside of herself and see the natural world with differing points of view. Anything that comes to mind is written in a series of journals that she keeps in an aged leather bag. When she sits to write, a process she calls "churning" begins. Every morning for 30 minutes over coffee she revisits her ideas and keeps writing.

"I call it 'the zone,' a realm of concentration," she said. "It's a fun, fun place to be but very dangerous. You should stay at home until it goes away."

As for her human motivation, Emerson looks to her mother and Emily Dickenson.

"I would take a book by Dickenson to a desert island," she said. "I don't think I write like her, I just love her."

Emerson, who studied at University of Virginia and is a current Professor of English at the University of Mary Washington, said it took a full year of

preparation to even apply to graduate school at University of North Carolina Greensboro. Despite the lengthy process, she encourages students interested in creative writing to further their education, calling it the Peace Corps for the self.

"I had on the armor of naivety," she said. "I wish I had had a good mentor in that time to give me advice."

With pen to paper, metaphor is Emerson's weapon of choice.

"I love details and adjectives too," she said. "Why have two when you can have three or four?"

In high school, she dreamed of being a fiction writer. It wasn't until her late 20s that Emerson realized fiction was not her game and moved to poetry. Now at 51, looking back to her college years when she wanted to be a Nashville Country songwriter, Emerson enjoys writing folk music with her husband.

The audience of her second session enjoyed a unique musical presentation by the duo, something Emerson said they had never done before. The couple decided to fuse their talents one night over a wedding poem she wrote, but decided it would be more fun to incorporate satire and change it to a story of divorce.

A Renaissance woman of the 21st century, Emerson incorporates creativity into everything she does. Who knows what she will do next, but Emerson said she will never stop writing.

"I think I'm just hard wired to do that," she said.



CAROLINE MATTHEWS | Photographer

Claudia Emerson reads from her Pulitzer-Prize winning collection of poetry as well as a book to be released in the fall.

CELEBRATE! preview

Students perform during weeklong showcase

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

The past two springs have seen Elon bring together the artistic and academic sides of campus in a way unique to other colleges and universities across the country. CELEBRATE! fuses events from undergraduate research projects to art exhibitions to musicals in a weeklong celebration that honors the many talents of the student body.

In the fall, a large group of faculty from various departments meet to plan out CELEBRATE! week. It is responsible for picking the date, organizing the events and deciding what type of presentations will be shown, but at the heart of

CELEBRATE!, students are the driving force.

"This week celebrates the work already going on around campus," Steven House, dean of Elon College, said. "The work our students do is so incredible; you won't understand it until you see it."

From April 27 to May 3, Elon will showcase notable projects that demonstrate student achievement. Besides the established SURF projects students present, CELEBRATE! goes beyond research. Students can look forward to a number of readings, dance and music recitals and film projects that display their peers' hard work and originality.

Each year CELEBRATE! follows a certain pattern. But as the event continues to

grow, the individual programs become more varied and unique. Some of this year's highlights include a slide show of "Physics Photography" and a cultural study on the changing perceptions of Japanese Kimonos.

More than 50 other events will be going on around campus during this congratulatory week. Student presenters and entertainers put a great deal of effort into getting their acquired abilities and knowledge out into the community.

"Students are the heart and soul of CELEBRATE! week," said Rebecca Pope-Ruark, assistant professor of English. "It is their performances, their readings, their research presentations that we celebrate during the week."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Senior Maddie Phillips leads the all-female A Capella group Sweet Signatures last year at CELEBRATE! week.

Student involvement begins even before the actual week comes. Every year since its induction in 2006, students have also been responsible for creating the official CELEBRATE! week program. This year, junior Andrew Maurin and sophomore Erin Stevenson were the pamphlet coordinators.

"We get the event information together for all of the week's events and SURF presentations," Maurin said. "Then we organize the information and format it for the pamphlet. It's pretty time consuming, but we end up with a great product at the end of the day."

CELEBRATE! week represents something more than just another awards ceremony. While recognition of excellence is at its core, CELEBRATE! week is truly a celebration. It offers the opportunity for the community to come together and for individual students to demonstrate the wide variety of passion and dedication found throughout Elon. Without certificates or medals, CELEBRATE! provides another outlet for students to receive the

recognition they deserve.

Supporting the idea that people never stop learning, CELEBRATE! week is doing something new this year and will honor professors around campus as well. Kicking off CELEBRATE! week, before College Coffee on April 29, a number of professors will be presenting their own scholarship research.

The Recognition of Faculty Scholarship is just one way that CELEBRATE! week continues to evolve. Students and other faculty members are urged to come and support their teachers and colleagues, to experience the quest of knowledge that does not stop once undergraduate years are finished.

Class on Tuesday April 29 is cancelled for SURF presentations and other programs. It is the perfect time to support friends, classmates and peers and maybe be inspired to show your own work.

Copies of this year's CELEBRATE! pamphlet will be available soon in building across campus. They will not be placed in every mailbox as in previous years, so be sure to pick up one.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dance majors showcased their abilities during an improvised dance session at last year's CELEBRATE!

MOVIE REVIEW ★★☆☆

Reeves, Whitaker take big screen in thriller 'Street Kings'

Adam Constantine
Reporter

Power. Greed. Murder. Secrets. Corruption so deep that an honest cop seems like a fantasy. This is the world which Detective Tom Ludlow (Keanu Reeves) has sworn to protect.

This rogue cop, who frequents his firearm more than his handcuffs, has learned to survive in a world where following the law takes a back seat to staying alive.

Directed by David Ayer, "Street Kings" follows the grisly story of Detective Ludlow and his superior Captain Jack Wander (Forest Whitaker) as they take on the crime-filled streets of Los Angeles.

What at first seems to be a typical gory action film develops into a game of cat and mouse with a twist that gives the good ol' noggin a little thinking time. The star-studded cast takes this movie from a clichéd action film to one of the best action movies this year. Now understandably it is only April, but this movie is one that has the potential to be remembered through December.

Reeves once again plays the dark and mysterious character with a chip on his shoulder and the weapons to carry it out. Before you roll your eyes, this is not the typical Reeves seen in movies past such as "Constantine" where the dark and evil presence of his character is overbearing. This movie shows his maturity as an actor. The hero in his character proves to be more than a narrow-minded, bloodthirsty killer

on the big screen. His character, along with Whitaker's, is what takes this movie to the next level.

Captain Jack Wander is who Detective Ludlow looks to for advice, guidance and protection. When Ludlow gets into sticky situations, Wander does whatever it takes to make sure that he stays safe and out of trouble. It isn't until much later in the movie that Ludlow realizes what he has really gotten himself into.

Having to watch his back at every glance and glare, Ludlow has to be especially careful around Captain James Briggs (Hugh Laurie of "House, M.D.") who seems to see his every move. Briggs is a character clouded with mystery until key elements are revealed. This movie does a great job of keeping its secrets until the end.

The supporting cast of rappers Common, The Game and comedian Cedric the Entertainer that provided some comic relief but also made the suspense believable.

Although this movie had some good plot twists and turns, it is an R-rated action shooter that is probably not on the top of your list for a date or family movie night. But if you need a movie that will get your heart pumping and blood flowing, this is definitely the movie to see.

WANT TO GO?

What: 'Street Kings'

Director: David Ayer

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Forrest Whitaker and Hugh Laurie

Where: West End Cinemas

How Much: \$6 before 6 p.m. and \$8 after 6 p.m.

Runtime: 109 minutes

Phirst Pham Poetry Slam showcases student talent

Alexa Milan
A&E Editor

A fitting contribution to National Poetry Month, the Phirst Pham Poetry Slam celebrated student talent in poetry and music. The event, hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, drew a crowd April 11 in The Zone.

The event was open to all students who wanted to showcase their poetry, music, spoken word or song. Students who signed up in advance performed first, but then the floor was open for anyone in the crowd to share their work. The only rule was that all acts had to be free of vulgar or profane language to ensure that the event could be enjoyed by everyone.

"The poetry slam has been an annual event at least for the last six years," junior Elijah Martinez said. "In fact it was one of the things that got me interested in Alpha Phi Alpha in the first place."

Martinez, who helped organize the poetry slam, kicked off the event with the Langston Hughes poem "Let America Be America Again." He emphasized the significance of Hughes' importance both in African-American history and in the field of poetry as a whole.

Martinez says that most of the poetry is usually student-written while the music is often a cover of a popular artists' work. This poetry slam continued the trend of original student poetry, like senior Erica Ayala's poem that she wrote for one of her classes and junior Harrison Alex King's poem about how his father has helped and influenced him throughout his life.

Senior Damian Branch read his poem "A Good Man." Branch had said

he would read a poem out loud before graduation, and since he is graduating in May, he said now was the time to live up to his word.

Students did not simply read their poems, but performed them with passion and feeling. The environment was similar to that of a coffee house poetry showcase where the crowd was encouraged to snap rather than clap. There was a lot of audience encouragement and support, and students voiced their approval and cheered during the performances.

"What I want is simply an avenue that students have to express themselves," Martinez said. "Poetry is an art form that really digs deep in the soul of students, especially at our age. I want people to have a relaxing environment where they can showcase their hearts and feelings."

Students expressed just as much talent in music as they did in poetry. The entire crowd joined in on an a cappella rendition of "Here I Am to Worship." Junior Grant Knight performed a piece inspired by the movie "August Rush." Knight began by laying his guitar on the ground and making music by tapping the strings before playing the instrument more traditionally.

Senior Walter Weathers and junior Martina Barnett went beyond their duties as hosts of the poetry slam and performed as well. Weathers performed the poem "Test of a Man" while Barnett sang India Arie's "Ready for Love" a cappella.

Martinez said he would like to see more events like this on campus. The crowd was reminded to remember what they saw at the poetry slam, support the work of their peers and not be afraid to share their own talents with the Elon community.



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Tennis is passion of Parham's life

Men's tennis coach Tom Parham has published a book about being a college coach



FILE PHOTO

Coach Tom Parham has led Elon's men's tennis team to 11 straight conference championships.

Kaitlin Busch
Copy Editor

His teams have won three national championships, one at Elon University. He was National Coach of the Year four times and is in seven athletic halls of fame.

He said he holds all of these honors and awards close to his heart, but he cherishes one honor most; the Elon Medallion.

Tennis became a real passion for Tom Parham in college, once he realized basketball was not the sport for him.

"The more I played [tennis], the more I learned and enjoyed the sport," Parham said. "Tennis is what I became known for and it is what I do best."

Parham became Elon's men's tennis coach in 1985, knowing he had some work to do.

The team hadn't won a conference title since 1950. Within a year, Parham put men's tennis on the map.

He led the team to 11 straight conference championships, from 1986 to 1997.

"We ruled the game for a while," he said.

Five years after he started coaching, the men's tennis team won the national championship in 1990.

"It was great. We had four boys [on the team] from North Carolina, all starters and seniors," Parham said. "We won 14 national awards. We won in singles, doubles and in community, service and sportsmanship to name a few. A lot of nice things happened that year."

Looking back on his coaching career, Parham credits his players' talent that won the titles, not his coaching.

"You don't get anywhere without a lot of kids busting their butts and we were no exception," Parham said. "Players win titles. I know that's cliché, but that's the truth."

Parham continued to coach the men's tennis team as well as the women's tennis team from 2001-2004, until he retired.

Parham was more than a phenomenal coach at Elon.

He also served as an associate professor in health and physical education from 1985 to 2004, the assistant director of athletics from 1986 to 1991, the associate director of athletics from 1991 to 1999 and the director of tennis operations from



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Men's tennis coach, Tom Parham has recently had a book published entitled "Play Is Where Life Is," detailing his experiences with college athletics.

1999 to 2004.

He received Elon's Medallion, the university's highest honor, in 2004, an award that he "holds in highest regard."

Tennis is still a part of Parham's life as a retiree. He still has a hand in it, with the recent publication of his book, "Play is Where Life is."

The book is about his experiences growing up in North Carolina and his reflections on his college athletics career that spans more than four decades.

"I wrote the book for my family and friends, to tell our story," he said. "I enjoyed writing it."

Although the book is doing well, Parham is still undecided if he will publish another book in the future.

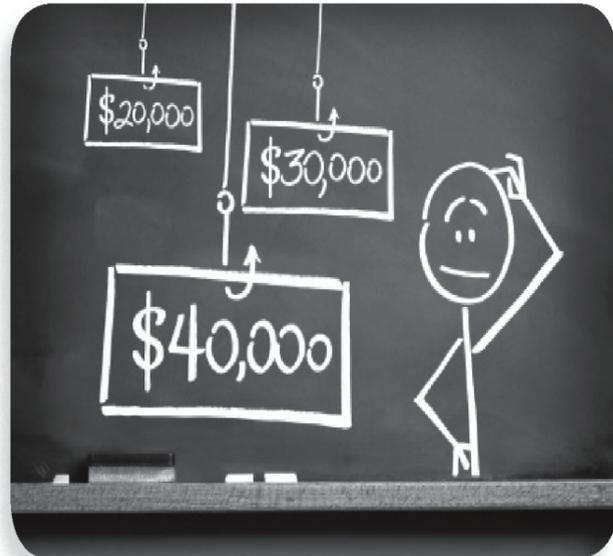
"It might be a one-hit wonder, I don't know," he said.

With such a remarkable career to reflect on, tennis is and has been the passion, the driving force behind Parham's life and his choices.

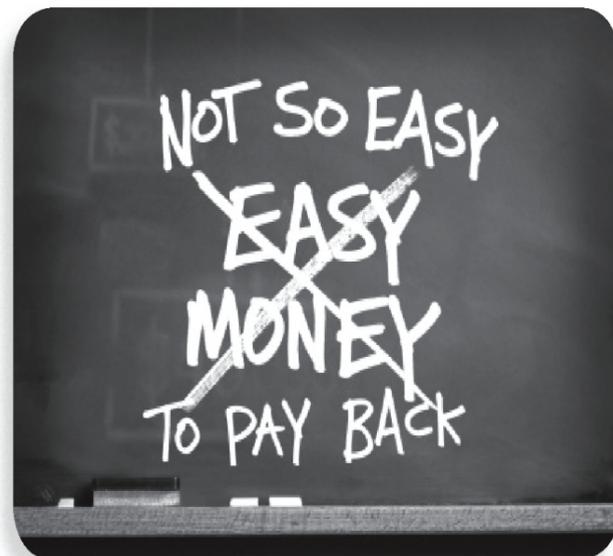
"It's in my blood," he said. "Your players are your best friends, they are a gift, and I had some really good ones."

"Play is Where Life is" can be purchased online at www.tomparham.wordpress.com.

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THE CRAZIES IN MAROON

A look at the history of the Phoenix Phanatics fan group

Laura Wainman
Reporter

Many Elon students think the Phoenix Phanatics organization has been around forever.

Yet, like many of Elon's best organizations, it was a product of a few students' hard work and creativity. Nick Palatiello, Lindsey Goodman, Brian O'Shay and Dave Warsel casually discussed how the student government could raise attendance and spirit at athletic events.

These four students took the first steps toward creating the Phanatics in 2004 when they held a raffle at a UNC-Greensboro versus Elon home basketball game. It was Elon's first sold-out athletic event since moving up to Division I.

It was also the first debut of the famous black "Nest" shirts that students continue to wear today. Because of the huge success of the basketball game, Palatiello decided to take it to the next level and turn his idea into an official organization.

During the fall of 2004, Palatiello and other members of the student government

worked with the Center for Leadership Organization Development, headed by Dean Waters, and created official by-laws for the Phoenix Phanatics organization.

The by-laws were sent to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, and his committee. The students were also required to have a petition with at least 50 signatures supporting the organization's mission.

"This was the easiest step of the process since we had a lot of support from the student body," Palatiello said.

The Phoenix Phanatics was approved as an official organization in the spring of 2005.

The name was chosen to represent not only the mascot of the university, but also how fanatical Elon students are when it comes to athletics.

Palatiello was the first president of the Phoenix Phanatics. The football season in fall 2005 marked the launch of the Phanatics. Carson Foushee was elected vice president and Jaclyn Garriss became secretary.

Both the basketball and football teams were very thankful and supportive of



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Phoenix Phanatics is a fan group founded in 2005 with more than 300 event-supporting members.

the Phoenix Phanatics and after the Phoenix football team had a big win over North Carolina A&T, the players all jumped into the Phanatics section to thank them for their support.

In the spring of 2006, the men's basketball team made its first big run at the Southern Conference Tournament when it lost to Davidson College in the semi-finals. The Phoenix Phanatics had a large group of students in Charleston supporting the team and Palatiello said it was one of his most memorable moments with the organization.

"Just being there with the team and my fellow Phanatics to support the Phoenix was so much fun," Palatiello said. "You could tell we were really

starting to form as a campus to support our athletes."

Palatiello has attended three football games since his graduation in May 2006 and said he loved seeing students staying past half-time and enjoying the game.

"This organization has made so many strides already," Palatiello said. "But I would really love to see everyone become a Phoenix Phanatic. We should be proud to not only be Elon students, but also to be a Phoenix." This year, the Phoenix Phanatics had more than 300 members.

"[It] is the official student fan group of Elon University," Palatiello said. "It is dedicated to upholding the traditions of Elon University while instilling institutional and athletic pride."

Phun Phacts:

- Members pay a \$30 one-time fee to join
- Membership includes a Phoenix Phanatics T-shirt
- Phanatics tailgate at the In-Gold lot for all home football games, and is the only student organization allowed
- The group is offered premier seating in Rhodes Stadium and The Nest
- Members participate in road trips to Phoenix away games all year

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Women's track team posts 19 top-10 finishes

Justine Robertson earned three top-10 finishes and posted one season-best performance. She finished eighth in the shot put and sixth in the discus throw. She also grabbed fifth-place in the javelin.

Veronica Day finished fourth in the long jump and second in the triple jump. Katelyn Ealer finished second in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10:46.28. Alissa Wilke finished right behind her at 10:46.94.

Colleen McCarthy posted a third-place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11:49.74.

Phoenix earns two victories in SoCon battle

Elon faced SoCon foe Western Carolina in a three-game series at Latham Park this past weekend.

The Phoenix took the first two games, 16-1 and 3-2, before losing 6-3.

Junior Steven Hensley threw his fourth career complete game on Friday night en route to the 16-1 conference win. He struck out 11 hitters. Chase Austin went 2-for-3 with a run scored and four RBIs.

On Saturday, Elon grabbed the win in a wild pitch in the top of the 11th inning. From the plate, Cory Harrilchak went 4-for-6 with two runs scored.

On Sunday, the Catamounts were too much to overcome for the Phoenix. Western Carolina tallied a grand slam and another homerun to lead them to a victory.

Elon softball team loses two of three games to Chattanooga

The Chattanooga Lady Mocs downed the Phoenix in the first game, 8-1. Elon tallied only 3 hits, as opposed to the Lady Moc's 13. Carol Lilley got the loss pitching 2.2 innings with seven earned runs and one strikeout.

Elon jumped to an early lead in the nightcap, taking advantage of two errors by the Mocs. Freshman Pam DePizzo allowed only five hits

and one run in six innings of work. Tracey Dahlen went 2-for-1 from the plate.

In the last game of the series, Elon fell to the Lady Mocs 4-2.

Elon is 6-6 in league play and the Mocs are 9-1, their only loss coming at the hands of the Phoenix.

Women's tennis captures regular season finale

The Phoenix claimed the doubles point, winning all three doubles matches, and five of the six singles bouts, defeating Western Carolina for a 6-1 Southern Conference victory.

Deanna Bailey earned the win at No. 1, Anna Milian at No. 2, Paige Kensrue at No. 3, Whitney Butcher at No. 5 and Laura Graybill at No. 6.

With the win, the Phoenix set a new program record of 14 wins — the most since the Phoenix joined the NCAA Division I nine years ago.

The women head to Charleston, S.C., for the Southern Conference Tournament next Friday. Elon is set to face number four-seeded UNC Greensboro.

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Sports

One last win at home



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

Alberto Rojas returns a shot during Elon's last home game against High Point University.

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

On Friday, the Phoenix played its last home match of the 2008 campaign. Mason Schermerhorn also played his last match at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center as a Phoenix men's tennis star.

Schermerhorn is the lone senior on the team this year and he was honored in a Senior Day ceremony before Elon dominated its home finale against non-conference for High Point University.

The senior has helped Elon to a 38-11 overall record and a 19-2 Southern Conference ledger during his two years on the squad.

Schermerhorn has amassed a 32-11 singles

ledger and a 32-9 doubles mark over the past two springs.

Elon swept its way through three doubles matches and captured five of the six singles bouts, posting a 6-1 victory.

Oscar Podlewski earned the victory at No. 2, Schermerhorn won at No. 3, and Alberto Rojas dominated at No. 4. Philip Nemecek and Chase Helpingstine also scored victories in the singles bouts at No. 5 and No. 6 respectively.

The Phoenix will travel to Charleston, S.C. on Friday for the Southern Conference Tournament.

Elon has a bye the first round and is set to face the winner of the seventh-seeded Georgia Southern and 10th seeded UNC-Greensboro.

Women's club basketball ends season with first home tournament

Sam Rinderman
Reporter

The women's club basketball team's season came to an end Sunday on a positive note as it hosted its first home tournament in Elon's Jordan Gym.

The first game against North Carolina State was a thriller as the Phoenix led the entire game, until less than five minutes to go in the second half when N.C. State took its first lead of the game.

The Wolfpack would never look back as it wound up earning a three-point victory, 65-62.

"We have very strong players in all five positions and everyone contributes something different which makes us a very well-rounded team," senior Jess Elder said. "Our rebounding started out very well at the beginning of today's game, but it was lacking near the end of the game which ultimately led to our loss."

The women enjoyed playing at home for the first time this spring.

The girls have had to travel as far as Maryland for some tournaments this season, which can be a rough haul for the weekend.

This weekend proved to be a convenient wrap-up for the women's season.

"Sometimes we have to wake up around 6 a.m. in order to hit the road for a tournament, arrive around noon and play for four hours, and then drive back, so it was nice to play at home for a change," team president Rachel Dailey said.

The tournament wound up becoming a one-game tournament when Campbell University's team failed to show up.

The original schedule had Elon set to play N.C. State first, N.C. State then taking on Campbell and Campbell in turn battling Elon to conclude the day's activities.

"We expected Campbell to be here at our tournament," Elder said. "They confirmed

For more information about club sports, check out: www.elon.edu/e-web/students/campus_recreation

the schedule and received directions, but the Campbell club basketball representative never gave a phone number, leaving us no way to contact their team when they failed to arrive at Jordan Gym."

The girls have improved throughout the season. Biology professor, Matthew Clark took over as adviser/coach in the fall of 2007, alongside sophomore student coach, Harrison Seeler.

The team also had a heightened interest level, with many new girls joining the team this spring.

Molding everyone into a good team unit was one of Dailey's season-long goals.

"We improved a lot over the course of the season," Dailey said. "Sunday we played great team basketball and all of the girls played really well."

The team is very deep for a club team; it had twelve players on its bench.

That should be a positive for next season as many of those players are expected to return.

There will be no more women's club basketball games this season, but this fall marks the third year of the club's existence.

Fall semester is the club's regular season, with the women participating in more than six tournaments along the Northeast coast.

"The future of this team is really bright," Elder said. "There are a lot of good freshmen on the team, and [Dailey] is a great president. This club has come a long way since its foundation."

Cheerleaders find new fan flavor at Davis Cup

Justin Hite
Reporter

With a chance to cheer for the United States of America, the Elon cheerleading team could not help but jump at the opportunity.

Eight members of the team and two former members became the USA stunt team at the Davis Cup tie between the United States and France this weekend in Winston-Salem.

"So we come from a small school, small program, but at the same time a strong program," former member Phillip Sholes said. "An opportunity like this highlights our abilities."

The team wound up in Winston-Salem as a replacement for the Charlotte Bobcats dance team. And without some of the major schools in the area, the Phoenix had a chance to show off its work on an international stage.

"It's a larger scale of excitement and the fans

have been incredible," coach Sandra Bays said.

Commuting by van to Winston-Salem on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings the team spent hours entertaining fans of the United States, not just Elon fans.

But the change took a little getting used to. "None of us were really used to tennis to begin with," senior John O'Brien said. "When we first got here it was doing it on the run. Obviously cheerleaders don't participate in tennis events."

Any members of the team that found themselves immersed in the Davis Cup atmosphere found themselves in an atmosphere that include French soccer-like chants as well as drums and cowbells.

"The crowd gets real excited every time we go out there," O'Brien said. "It's a real nice thing to see the crowd get [like that]."

On television, tennis is The Wimbledon. It's the French Open or even the U.S. Open. But the tennis at the Davis Cup this weekend was met with a raucous

crowd not seen in many other tennis arenas.

"You think tennis and everyone is dead silent," O'Brien said. "Whenever we go out there everyone is standing up, screaming, yelling and shouting. It's a fun atmosphere; it's not what I expected. I was kind of thinking a golf atmosphere."

Erin Smith, Michael Monkelien, Devon Cosenza, Kadie Kersey, Hilary Fogle and Brian Steves joined Sholes and O'Brien. Melissa and Damon Duncan, two Elon graduates also made appearances in Winston-Salem.

It's something the team has been missing. The reaction from the crowd not only improved the performance of world-class tennis players like Andy Roddick and James Blake, but also even had an effect on the cheerleading team.

"Here, you go out and hold a T-shirt and they are so excited you are out on the court," Bays said. "The team feeds from that excitement and it makes them do a better job."