

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013 • VOLUME 39, EDITION 2

BREAKING THE bank

2013-2014
\$40,047

2012-2013
\$38,460

2011-2012
\$36,971



In this edition...

Look inside for details on Elon's proposed tuition increases and how they will affect students • page 4

Table of Contents

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 • page 2

in this

EDITION...

NEWS

Gun permits skyrocket in Alamance County • page 6

OPINIONS

Religious diversity needs student support to thrive • page 10

INTERNATIONAL

Organic farms are changing the face of Cuba's food culture • page 12

FEATURES

International Fellows receive experiential learning through 'Discovering Dixie' • page 15

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SUB streamlines, embraces variety for spring semester • page 18

SPORTS

Get a preview of the 2013 Elon baseball season • page 20

4

10

12

14

17

20

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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

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The price

Elon proposes tuition

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Tuition and Fees

Academic Year	Tuition	Fees
1989-1990	\$6,030	\$70
1994-1995	\$9,100	\$150
1999-2000	\$12,671	\$225
2004-2005	\$17,310	\$245
2009-2010	\$25,159	\$330
2010-2011	\$26,480	\$347
2011-2012	\$27,534	\$347
2012-2013	\$28,633	\$347
2013-2014	\$29,750	\$399

Elon University is proposing a 3.9 percent tuition increase for the upcoming academic year, as well as increases in room and board, Student Government Association and health fees. The university will present the proposals to members of Elon's Board of Trustees this week.

If the Board of Trustees approves the proposed increases, Elon's total cost of attendance will equal approximately \$40,000, a 4.13 percent increase from the 2012-2013 academic year. The business and finance committee of the Board of Trustees will review the proposals this week, and the entire board will approve, deny or amend the proposals next week.

Elon's total cost of attendance has risen steadily since 1989 to support the growth of the institution and enhance its learning environment. If approved, next year's increases will generate revenue to advance the Elon Commitment, a strategic plan to promote academic

excellence and expand residential areas on campus. The additional revenue will also be used to compensate the university's faculty and staff, according to Gerald Whittington, senior vice president for business, finance and technology.

"As we want to grow as an institution, we need to keep our small class size and maintain that personal attention given to each student," he said. "We have the constant issue of trying to compensate our folks for the work that they do."

For some students, even a modest bump in tuition cost will increase their financial burdens after graduation.

"Tuition increases won't affect me right away, because I'm not paying everything out of pocket right now," said junior Tyler Molinaro, who shares the cost of his student loans with his parents. "It will affect me later, though, because it's more I'll have to pay back."

The proposals are also a preemptive measure to offset the impact of a potential tax code reform in North Carolina. During the 2013

Total Tuition and Fees

2012-2013 = \$28,980

2013-2014 = \$30,149

Total
cost of
attending
Elon

is right?

hike for next academic year

legislative session, which began Jan. 30, the North Carolina General Assembly will attempt to jumpstart the state's sluggish economy by building a new tax structure to promote business development and economic sustainability.

The State Business Tax Climate Index recently listed North Carolina as one of the worst business tax climates in the country, and Republican lawmakers are considering eliminating the state's corporate income tax to improve its standing. They may abolish personal income taxes, too, in exchange for higher sales taxes on all transactions, including those that are currently tax-free. The Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C., which produces the State Business Tax Climate Index, also proposed four reform options after reviewing the state's tax structure at the request of the Carolina Business Association.

If the state eliminates personal and corporate income taxes, it will likely repeal the sales and property tax exemptions currently afforded to many non-profit institutions, including

Elon. Such a repeal would cost the university \$3.5 million annually, according to Whittington.

"We don't know what the legislature is going to do," Whittington said. "But if they do what many are suggesting they do, we feel this is a necessary measure to recover that expense."

If the proposed increases are approved or modified, Elon's total cost of attendance will remain relatively low compared to many private colleges. John Martin, a prospective student from Berwyn, Pa., said an increase in the cost of attendance would not affect his interest in the university.

"For me, my dad made it clear that my student loans will be my debts," he said. "He said he will help me the best he can, but they will be my responsibility. One thing that really attracted me to Elon was its relatively low tuition for a high quality education. If Elon's base tuition wasn't so much lower than other schools, I might have a problem with an increase, but compared to other schools that I could go to, it's still not a huge difference."

2012-2013
\$38,460

2013-2014
\$40,047

Total Room and Board

2012-2013 = \$9,480

2013-2014 = \$9,898

Room and Board

Academic Year	Room	Board
1989-1990	\$1,400	\$1,750
1994-1995	\$1,772	\$2,101
1999-2000	\$2,074	\$2,477
2004-2005	\$2,936	\$3,074
2009-2010	\$3,992	\$4,244
2010-2011	\$4,192	\$4,456
2011-2012	\$4,440	\$4,650
2012-2013	\$4,690	\$4,790
2013-2014	\$4,953	\$4,945

Gun permits skyrocket in Alamance County

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

The Alamance County Sheriff's Office issued 1,155 handgun permits last month, reflecting a trend that likely began during the final months of 2012. The office processed a high number of concealed weapons permit applications, as well.

The surge in permit applications may be a reaction to the gun control debate simmering in Congress, according to Becky Smith, an administrative assistant in the sheriff's office.

The December shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., caused many federal and state lawmakers to consider bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, as well as

stricter background checks and regulations of private sales. Four days before his second inauguration, President Obama announced a plan attempting to curb gun violence with four pieces of legislation and 23 executive orders related to gun control.

According to Smith, the office received a high number of handgun and concealed weapons permit applications in the months following Obama's reelection.

"We first saw an increase when he was elected for the first time, and then we saw another increase the second time," she said. "People were afraid he was going to ban certain types of weapons."

The sheriff's office issued 3,247 handgun permits in 2012, compared to 2,644 in 2011. Concealed weapons permits

jumped from 779 to 917 in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Ammunition sales have also risen. According to Jerry, a sales associate at the Burlington Wal-Mart who declined to reveal his last name, the store is having difficulty supplying enough ammunition to meet customer demand.

"Our warehouse can't keep enough in stock," he said. "We only get three boxes of ammunition at a time now, and we used to get as many as we wanted."

Jerry said there has been a significant uptick in rifle sales, too.

"We can't keep them on the shelves," he said.

The trend may be statewide. Kevin Sutherd, an administrative assistant in the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office,

said the office processed a significantly higher number of handgun and concealed carry permits in 2012 than in 2011.

"The increase really started around December," he said, though he is unsure of the number of permits the county issued in January 2013.

Alamance County Permits

2011 Concealed Carry Permits: **779**

2012 Concealed Carry Permits: **917**

2011 Handgun Permits: **2,644**

2012 Handgun Permits: **3,247**

Jan. 2013 Handgun Permits: **1,155**

Students for Concealed Carry elicits mixed reaction

Michael Bodley
Assistant News Editor

Students for Concealed Carry, a national, non-partisan and student-run advocacy group, called for immediate action in allowing concealed carry on college campuses nationwide Jan. 17.

David Burnett, the group's spokesman, called for legislators nationwide to respond to the alleged risks gun-free campuses pose to students, referring to the mass shootings of recent years.

"The mass shootings we've seen in recent years only prove killers don't play by the rules," he said. "Today we're calling on legislators in every state to change those rules and stop colleges from trampling on the rights of good people wanting to defend themselves."

But at Elon, the group's proposal was met with mixed opinions. Gerald Whittington, senior vice president of business, finance and technology, said he is adamantly opposed to concealed carry on campus for any reason.

"The change in culture to accommodate allowing concealed carry would be antithetical to campus life," he said. "If you have to consider that any person you see on a campus might have a concealed weapon, we would treat each other differently, our campus po-

lice officers would have a level of required vigilance and concern that would be necessary and unpopular and worst of all, simple disputes could easily escalate in ways that are tragic."

But others said concealed carry would prevent violence on Elon's campus, not encourage it. Freshman Jeff King said he values a person's right to self-protection.

"I definitely think that people should have a right to protect themselves," he said. "And if anything were to happen, it'd be better to have people around who have better intentions than the gunman and have guns on them, then have nobody to defend themselves."

Senior Jared Silverstone also defended the constitutional right to bear arms, but he said reasonable limits still must be imposed, and the Second Amendment is not absolute, especially under the jurisdiction of private universities.

"When you get into private campuses like this, especially with schools, you are kind of pushing the right to bear arms beyond a reasonable limit," he said. "I'm all for the right to carry arms in any public place and in your own home, but with a private university like Elon, it is pushing the limits of what is constitutional."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
To apply for a concealed carry permit, one must first complete a firearms safety and training course, which includes target shooting and a concealed carry handgun class. Applicants must present proof of completion.

Others said they believed matters of gun control and concealed carry are better left to the national stage, as opposed to allowing individual universities to regulate themselves.

"I don't really think that gun control is something the university should necessarily have a large say in," said senior Alex Zubak.

But according to Whittington, the issue of concealed carry is about more than gun control. He cited other dangers on college campuses that could be deadly when combined

with permitted concealed carry.

"Mix underage drinking and concealed carry and you have a recipe for disaster," he said. "Simply put, I am totally against it."

According to Zubak, though, concealed carry may be an attempt to control the uncontrollable.

"I think it's one of those things that those people who are going to carry it anyway are going to do it, regardless of whether they are allowed to," she said.

Immigration reform returns to legislative forefront

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

Four years ago, it was the stimulus package and the health care bill. Now, it's immigration reform. Recent proposals from the Senate and the president may make immigration reform the first big legislative push of Barack Obama's next four years.

A bipartisan committee of eight senators put out a framework for an immigration reform bill Jan. 28. Among other things, the proposal includes a system to provide undocumented immigrants currently in the United States a way to obtain "probationary legal status" after completing a background check and paying various fines and taxes. To receive a green card, these individuals would complete mandatory English and civics courses, show a history of employment and undergo further background checks.

"It's not guaranteed just because there's bipartisan and bicameral support, but it's nonetheless a sign that something is going to happen," said Jason Husser, assistant professor of political science at Elon University.

"Even more telling is that the president is also behind it and it has some bipartisan sup-

port in both the House and Senate."

Obama offered another proposal that focuses on creating paths to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented workers in the United States. The proposal aims to crack down on businesses that hire illegal immigrants and implement better immigration regulations. The proposed legislation includes a provision to give green cards to foreign students who complete a master's degree or Ph.D. in math, science, engineering or technology at an American university.

"If you open up any macroeconomic textbook, it's likely to say that one of the best ways to stimulate the economy is to invest in human capital," said Kenneth Fernandez, assistant professor of political science. "So if people are being trained here and we're not letting them stay, it seems to be shooting ourselves in the foot."

Sophomore Nicole Payne spoke about the way immigration is handled by both political parties at Elon's Debating the Issues forum last year. She argued Obama and Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts, "seemed more interested in either their number of votes or propping up the current system than about the people who are actually involved." With this new push for legislative action Payne said

she is slightly optimistic.

"I think it is wonderful that both parties have a hand in the solution," she said. "Unfortunately, it took our president a long time to realize that, and in the process more people than ever before were deported last year under his watch."

According to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency 400,000 people were deported in 2011, compared to less than 120,000 a decade earlier. Obama has attributed this to increased border security, which has allowed ICE to deport undocumented immigrants who may have only been in the country for a short period of time.

While the president's and the Senate's proposals overlap on a majority of key issues, Obama disagrees with the Senate's border security proposal. The bill does not allow immigrants to pursue legal status until the border is secured.

"You could imagine some group of elected officials or non-elected officials would say, 'No, it's not secure yet,' or, 'It's never secure,'" Fernandez said. "Obama wants a much more clear pathway to citizenship that isn't based on something that's really vague."

The House has yet to work on the bill, which is likely to change as it goes through the legisla-

tive process.

"Whatever goes through at this point is likely to be very different," Husser said.

Obama claimed 70 to 75 percent of the Latino vote in the 2012 election, and the bipartisan work on crafting immigration reform may be part of a larger Republican effort to garner Latino supporters, according to Husser.

"This isn't in general for every Republican leader in the country, but for some, they have hopefully pointed out that the Republican party has to be more than the party of white men," Husser said. "The Republican party was, and is still, strong among certain demographics, but its weakest is among non-whites and it makes them electorally vulnerable in the long term."

Conservatives have generally supported cutting immigrant benefits, implementing voter ID legislation that disproportionately affects minorities and changing the 14th Amendment to end citizenship at birth. Fernandez said Republicans have hurt their relationship with Latino constituencies with these proposals.

"I think they realize that they're not going to win certain elections or certain regions unless they change the rhetoric and start supporting some policies that this constituency seems to find important," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

Bob Maupin, 70, patrols his 250-acre ranch in Tierra del Sol, Calif. His property sits on the U.S.-Mexico border and when it became a migratory route for illegal immigrants and drug smugglers he fortified the simple fence into something more substantial. Border security is being debated in Congress.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

Hundreds rallied in Charlotte, NC in May to support a South Carolina man who was in the U.S. illegally.

Elite schools change AP exam acceptance policies

Corinne James
Senior Reporter

Dartmouth College recently announced it will no longer accept Advanced Placement credits from incoming freshmen, sparking a debate concerning the academic worth of AP credits at all college institutions, including Elon University.

Dartmouth made its decision after its psychology department questioned the academic rigor of the AP Psychology exam. To test its suspicions, the department administered a version of the Psychology I final to 100 incoming freshmen who scored a five on the AP exam. Ninety students failed the test, and beginning with the class of 2018, Dartmouth will use AP exams as placement tests

instead of course equivalents.

The most selective institutions in the United States have long been stingy with AP credits — Harvard University only accepts a five, the top score, on AP exams — but Dartmouth's announcement added a new dimension to the AP phenomenon, one that is very prevalent at Elon.

According to Robin Straka, associate registrar, 747 of 1,426 incoming freshmen submitted AP scores to Elon, and 551 received credit for at least one AP course.

Though Elon awards credits for a large number of AP courses, students, faculty and staff hold various opinions about the merits of swapping test scores for course hours.

According to Mary Wise, associate vice president of academic affairs, there are ad-

vantages and disadvantages to validating college courses. Advanced Placement courses can prepare students for college-level work, but Elon's experiential learning philosophy offers an entirely different experience, she said.

Mark Snyder, an adjunct business management instructor, agreed.

"Any class administered in a high school setting is conducted under a very different dynamic than a collegiate setting," he said.

Some students believe the college atmosphere better facilitates their understanding of advanced subject matter. Freshman Zoe Parower received credit hours for AP Psychology, but she said the course did not provide a good foundation for her psychology major.

"I wish that I could take psychology in a college setting," she said. "Now that I'm here, I feel like my high school course was a joke."

Other students believe AP credits are both academically and financially valuable.

"I know my family saved a lot of money because I took the time to study for my AP exams," said freshman David Comerford.

Elon accepts scores of four or five on most AP exams and determines the acceptable minimum score for each test through a faculty vote.

"It's possible that some future change in Elon's curriculum, or a change in the performance of students with AP credits, might cause us to change our use of these scores," Wise said, though no changes are currently under consideration.

MOOCs cause colleges to reevaluate the merits of online learning

Michael Papich
Senior Reporter

Higher education often brings to mind images of classrooms, campuses and costs. But Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs, have recently raised many questions about the facilitation of higher education and the benefits of online learning.

Costless, credit-less and available to anyone with an Internet connection, MOOCs are college-level online lecture series taught by qualified professors from college institutions around the world. Though the courses aren't redeemable at established universities, they have no enrollment cap and no prerequisites, leveling the playing field for people who want to learn something new.

"It brings thinking to the table," said Connie Ledoux Book, associate provost at Elon. "It takes the ivory towers out."

Many elite universities like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Duke have partnered with MOOC providers such as Coursera, Udacity and edX to offer free courses to a global audience, and many other institutions, including Elon, are thinking critically about the role of online courses in a traditional college setting.

College educators have long questioned whether online courses support the same level of student engagement as a classroom setting.

Book worked as part of a committee at Elon that investigated the future of online courses and what they may offer.

"The things we measure engagement by will be different in the future," Book said. "There's elements of engagement in online courses, but not in the traditional way we think about it."

Online courses are already an integrated part of Elon, with Elon's Master of Business Administration and Master of Education programs partially online. Many of university administrators said they recognize the positive potentials of online learning.

"I've heard faculty say, from a pedagogical standpoint, sometimes students will be drawn out in discussions in an online class in ways that they might not be or be reluctant to participate in the same way in class," said Leo Lambert, president of Elon.

But for senior Eric Carroll, taking an online class was an unfavorable experience. He said it was difficult to engage in the course, which he considered overly simple.

"An in-person class offers greater discussion time," Carroll said. "I think it allows ideas to be bounced off, which allows for more educational growth."

Sophomore Madison Smith had a similar opinion.

"Half of the learning you do in a class is hearing other people's opinions and being able to sit there and ask your teacher about some-

thing," Smith said. "If you take it online, you can't do that."

Engaging or not, online classes often come with a smaller pricetag than traditional courses. At Elon, summer courses cost 46 percent less than the same courses during the fall and spring semesters, and MOOCs are administered at no cost to the student.

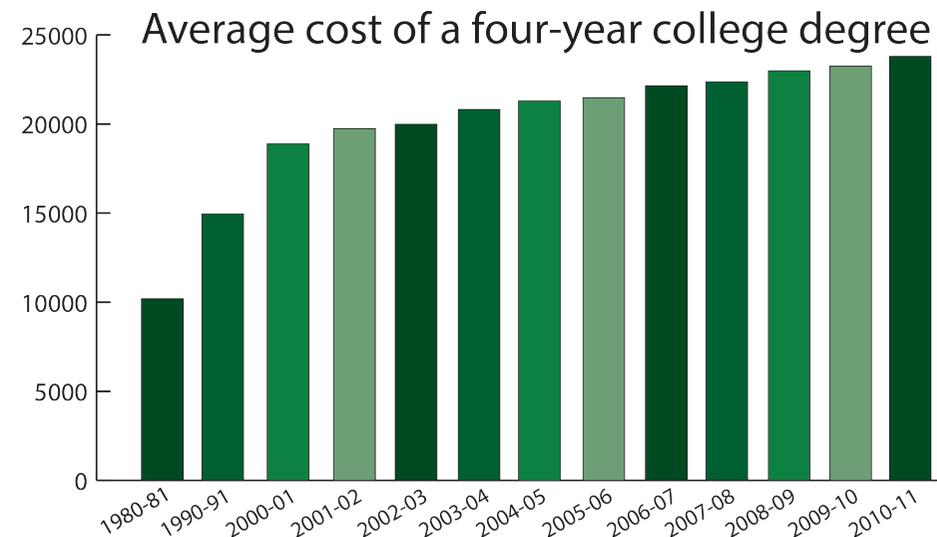
But students believe the price change only reflects the true value of an online course.

"You're paying for a lot of benefits you get from taking an in-person course," Smith said.

"You're getting a professor."

Though Lambert supports the idea of online learning, he said he also believes in the benefits of the traditional college structure.

"Online learning and MOOCs are a very interesting and promising phenomenon, but I think the core identity of Elon is very much going to remain residential and liberal arts based and very personal," Lambert said. "But that doesn't mean we can't also do those things and also take on the best of what these online experiences have to offer."



Interactive Media students share 'fly-in' Winter Term project

Corinne James
Senior Reporter

Graduate students in Elon University's Interactive Media program recently aided nonprofit organizations in Cuba, Costa Rica and Portugal in developing stronger online media presences and showcased the completed projects Jan. 24.

"The theoretical knowledge and application skills of the iMedia program enhance and go beyond what most students gain as undergraduates," said David Copeland, professor of communications and director of the program.

The program, called "Winter Fly-in," was mandatory for all iMedia students. Each team was provided with a writer, videographer, coder and other necessary elements which allowed them to complete the project.

This year's projects included an organic farm in Cuba, cultural preservation in Costa Rica and environmental protection in Por-

tugal.

According to Copeland, faculty members who have a contact in a nonprofit organization chose the locations.

Dioni Wise, an iMedia student, managed a team of students who worked with an indigenous group threatened by economic, political and environmental fears that could cause the extinction of their culture in Terraba, Costa Rica.

Wise said the inspiration for the project came from the Costa Rican government's choices to damage Terraba, land occupied by the Teribe culture for more than 500 years.

"A hydroelectric project commissioned by the Costa Rican government would permanently flood 10 percent of Terraba's land," Wise said. "The cultural association wanted us to build a site that demonstrated the value of their culture and land in hopes that the government would stop the project."

Wise, along with six of her classmates, designed the website and built it for the

Teribe Indigenous Cultural Association in 20 days. According to Wise, the site, terraba.org has received more than 11,600 page views since it was launched Jan. 24.

"The website showcases the history, culture and land rights struggle of the Terraba indigenous community," Wise said.

The team's work was showcased in a NPR report broadcast throughout the country.

Wise said the main reason she applied to



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
Students worked in Terraba, Costa Rica, to create a website to preserve indigenous culture. When the students returned to the U.S. they gave presentations on their work.

the iMedia program was for the opportunity to participate in a fly-in project.

"I love to travel and do community service," she said. "The fly-in allowed me to do both."

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Religious diversity needs student support to thrive

Elon University prides itself on more than academic excellence. In addition to the lessons we learn inside the elegant brick buildings, students are encouraged to become socially conscious, global citizens.

Fostering religious tolerance is a crucial part of Elon's pledge to promote diversity. Despite the services available to students of various faiths, the administration felt it could do more to support religious diversity and education for its students.

As of Fall 2012, the overwhelming majority of Elon students — 66 percent — identify as Christian. Roughly 30 percent do not identify as religious at all, 5 percent of students are Jewish, only .3 percent of students identify as Muslim and .1 percent as Buddhist.

The Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life supports more than 15 student organizations, reflecting the religious diversity of our student body. This includes a Zen meditation group, a gospel choir, a group for Jewish students called Hillel, an interfaith group called Better Together, Catholic Campus Ministries, the Muslim Students Association and SANE (Student Atheists and Non-religious at Elon).

Despite the numerous outlets for students to express their religious beliefs, Elon has committed itself to doing more. The school recently initiated a series of changes to substantiate its—commitment to bringing greater religious diversity to the student body.

Perhaps the most notable change on campus will come with the completion of the multi-faith center, the Numen Lumen Pavilion, in early spring. The center will consist of two prayer rooms and a large space for worship and reflec-

tion along with a kitchen and multi-purpose room for dinners, speakers and events.

The Numen Lumen Pavilion has been constructed so students of varying beliefs can learn, explore and share stories about their faiths and backgrounds. It is also intended to serve as a place for non-religious students to share their worldviews.

This January also marked the opening of the Sklut Hillel Center, offering a home to the existing Jewish group on Elon's campus.

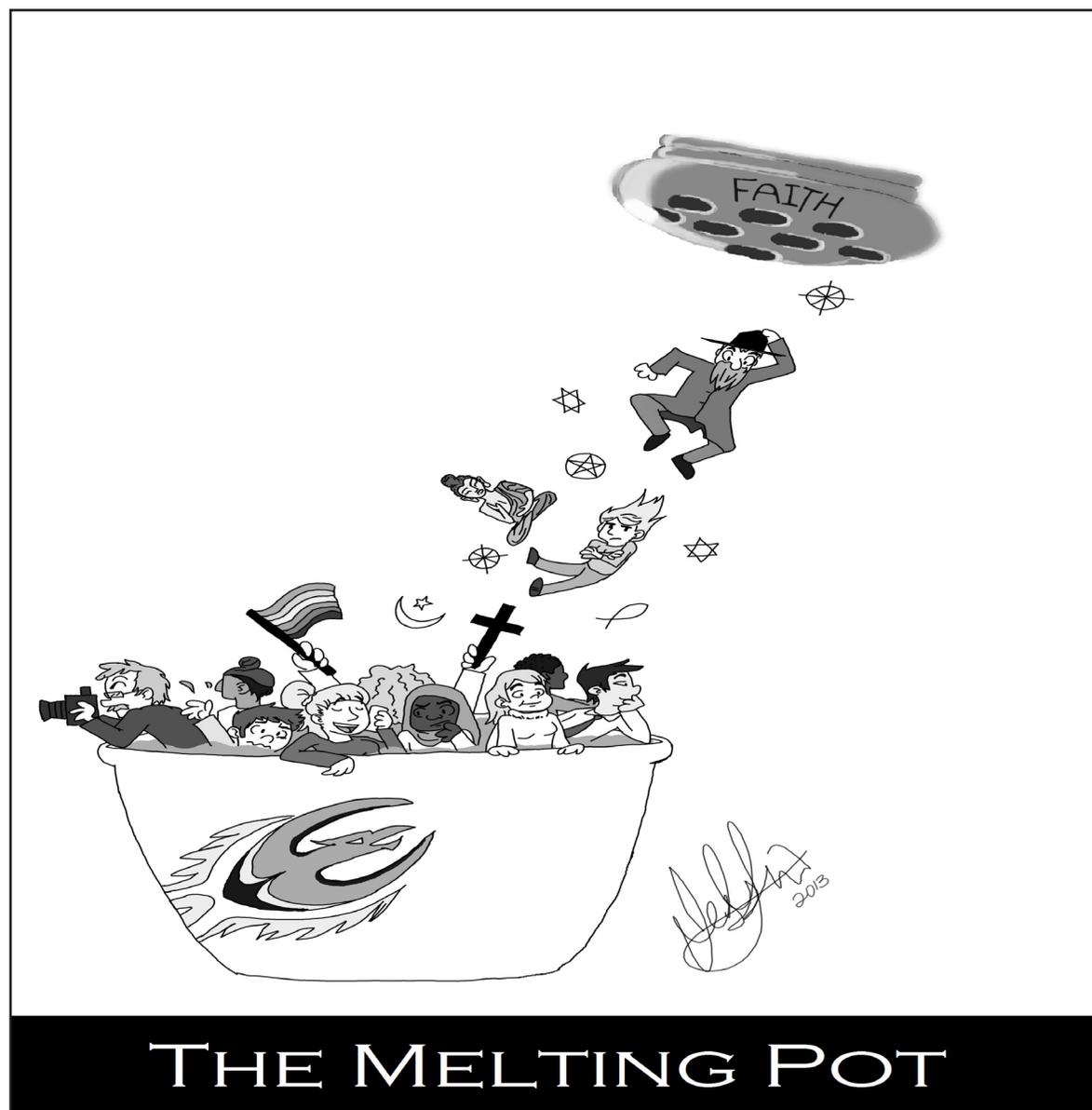
Elon is embracing a pluralistic view of society and is now, more than ever, placing an emphasis on expanding religious diversity on campus. There is a renewed purpose for bringing students together in spaces where they can practice and celebrate their own traditions while learning about others'.

In addition to Elon's pledge to provide more faith-based outlets, the student body is also doing its part. Two students have proposed the idea of bringing Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT), the nation's first Jewish fraternity, to campus.

ZBT representatives are currently meeting with interested Elon students who will serve as the founding brothers of the Elon chapter.

Elon has clearly committed itself to creating new opportunities for religious and non-religious students alike. The administration's efforts to further religious diversity, however, will only come to fruition with active student participation.

If we as students fail to take advantage of the multi-faith center, or if we choose not to embrace the new fraternity, we will be doing ourselves a great disservice. Ignoring these new religious forums would undermine Elon's commitment to diversity. We



must not only embrace the new additions, but also become active within them.

The roughly 30 percent of students who do not identify as religious who may think these changes do not concern them should reconsider. The center is not meant exclusively for people who identify as religious. It is meant to be a forum where students can express their diverse spirituality.

Elon has committed a signifi-

cant amount of time and money to expose its students to religious diversity. It is preparing us for an increasingly global society in which we will be working, negotiating and collaborating with people who see the world differently from us. Religious understanding and receptiveness are attributes that can benefit students of any major.

Will adding a new space for discussion, a new fraternity and sprucing up already established

organizations realistically foster tolerance among students? If students are willing to embrace these changes and act on them, then yes, it certainly can.

Elon students must make a point to visit the multi-faith center, support the idea of a Jewish fraternity and look into the various clubs that foster religious expression. Religious acceptance will only come to Elon if the students are instrumental in the process and committed to sustaining it.

CARTOON BY JESSICA GREMBOWSKI

Taking a stand against Notre Dame's Antics

It's hard to accept that after 20 years of believing in something with all your heart, you're entirely wrong. This is especially true when it comes to football team fandom. At the ripe old age of 20, I'm contemplating my lifelong fandom of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.



Mary Kate Brogan
Columnist

After the events that have unfolded during the last couple of years, it has become nearly impossible to be a self-assured Notre

Dame fan.

From the 2009 suicide of St. Mary's freshman Lizzy Seeberg after she was allegedly assaulted by a Notre Dame football player to the death of Declan Sullivan, the

student who fell to his death while filming football practice (an incident for which the university took no responsibility), Notre Dame's reputation has been tarnished by many a scandal. Still, fans have continued to make excuses for a team and a school which are really no better than Penn State.

Now, there's a fresh scandal involving linebacker and Heisman Trophy finalist Manti Te'o, who lost two important women during this past season. Ironically, one of these women does not exist: his girlfriend, Lennay Kekua.

At first, I reacted the same way I did with the last two scandals: I shrugged it off and made some excuse about how it was just one guy on a team of decent people.

But as the media began to pick apart his story and Te'o offered one implausible explanation after another, I realized how ridiculous his lies were. Ultimately, I realized

I can't continue to stand up for a team that has no moral ground. I've defended one too many scandals.

So I, a born and raised Notre Dame fan, am renouncing my lifelong fandom for the Fighting Irish.

But I'm not writing this column for me. I know I'm not the only one who continues to stand up for Notre Dame even when I know they're in the wrong.

I've seen the sweatshirts and baseball caps and the Facebook statuses of the downtrodden on the day of the National Championship.

I know you're out there, Elon University Notre Dame fans, and it's time for all of us to face the facts. Do you want to support a team that tries to cover up scandal after scandal? Are you willing to stand by as Notre Dame Athletics continue to disregard morality for the sake of the game? I don't

know about you, but I can't look the other way any longer.

College is a time to form your own opinions and become the person you want to be. You're welcome to believe what you want, but think about what you're supporting. If it doesn't faze you, so be it. But if you're like me, maybe you'll see that you can only blindly follow for so long.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o's impressive season was tainted by a bizarre hoax.

Second Amendment endangers Americans' right to life

If the words "gun" and "freedom" belong in the same sentence, then it should be in this context: America's gun culture is a threat to one of our most fundamental freedoms, our most unalienable right: the right to life.



Dan Quackenbush
Columnist

The Second Amendment is an outdated concept from a past era: an 18th century solution that has created 21st century problems.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution was part of the original Bill of Rights, adopted by the founders of our then-fledgling nation in December of 1791. That was 222 years ago.

Fast forward to today, and the Second Amendment has become an archaic and consequential hindrance to American society — an antiquated legal riddle whose relevance fizzled out during the times of slavery and the hey day of the British Empire.

The Second Amendment was appropriate during America's infancy. This was a time

when early American settlers worked and lived in dense forests and open countryside. They were open to attack by wild animals, British redcoats and Native Americans who resisted foreign occupation of the New World.

Now, we use guns to defend ourselves against each other. Both sides of the gun control debate are known to manipulate the facts and thereby confound public opinion.

One example of such egregious manipulation is the false notion that the right to own guns is an issue of freedom over all else. I am a champion of the Constitution and the values that it instills, which is why I cannot stand for the manipulation of the concept of freedom itself.

The National Rifle Association, headed by professional pundits Charlton Heston and Wayne LaPierre, would have you believe the issue of gun regulation is about freedom and personal safety. They would have you believe the only thing preventing the government from robbing you of your freedom is your ability to own a gun.

Consider this: Owning a gun doesn't make you any safer. Guns aren't making us safer. They're actually killing a lot of us at a pretty

alarming rate.

According to a 2007 report released on GunPolicy.org, more than 270 million Americans own firearms: That's almost 89 weapons for every 100 Americans — a total weapon count that amounts to nearly 100 times more guns owned by citizens than by our military and 300 times as many as those utilized by all our national police agencies.

Guns take things from us and they do more harm than good. They took a beloved president from us in 1963, a resolute civil rights advocate in 1968 and a cultural icon in 1980. But they take so much more. They take our fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends and colleagues.

Each victim of these shootings had the unalienable right to life. At what point did the right to bear arms trump the right to life? Are the lives of the children murdered in Newtown, Connecticut worth less than



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
According to GunPolicy.org, more than 270 million Americans own firearms.

the right of a civilian to own semi-automatic weapons? How about the lives of the innocent movie goers in a Colorado theater?

Our technology has been forced to adapt to meet the demands of our ever-evolving consumer society. Our citizens have had to adapt to modern-day social, economic and ideological movements that have and will continue to revolutionize American culture. Our constitution should adapt as well. Guns are advancing; it's time our laws start advancing too.

Organic farms changing the face of Cuba's food culture

Stephanie Schwartz
Reporter

HAVANA – Vivero Alamar hums with productivity, bordered by greens so vibrant and striking, it's hard to believe they aren't spray painted. The majority of these greens are mounds and mounds of lettuce, the organopónico's — organic urban farm — cash crop. The farm is located in a suburb outside of Havana and sells about 400 batches a day at its market. Many customers visit on a daily basis.

Cuba's food culture was never one to focus on vegetables. Yet in the last 20 years, as organopónicos have sprouted up and the price of meat has skyrocketed, Cubans have been turning to new food sources.

"There's a saying that 25 percent of the food we eat is to live and the other 75 percent is for doctors to cure diseases that food produces," said Miguel Salcines, the president and founder of Vivero Alamar.

Like many Western societies, Cubans were dependent on industrial agriculture and ate a diet heavy in meat, fat and sugar.

"This lifestyle was producing an epi-

demic of cancer and cardiovascular disease," Salcines said.

But organopónicos are changing that.

Created in 1993 as a result of government policies responding to a severe food crisis, Cuba is now among the top countries in sustainable development.

After the Soviet Union dissolved, Cuba lost its main provider for nearly everything — imports, food, crops, fertilizer and oil. The country spiraled into what became known as "The Special Period," during which Cubans were on lockdown because of starvation. The government began to re-order its agricultural industry, and anyone with an interest in farming could get land.

Sustaining these small farms was the difficult part.

Those with an agricultural background had been trained in only industrial methods, so farmers recruited old-timers with knowledge in traditional farming. When Cuba didn't have the supplies or the money to get new tools, they got thrifty.

Like many other organopónicos, Vivero Alamar became organic by default. With no chemical fertilizers, they had to create their own using biopesticides like neem



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ

Lettuce is one of the largest cash crops at Vivero Alamar, an organic farm on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba.

tree seeds, earthworms and manure harvested from domestic animals.

Nearly everything is part of a cycle, from the animals to the herbs that grow in the raised beds littering the farm's 25-acre property. The farm uses oxen to transport feed to the animals, banana peels as biodegradable bags filled with seeds to provide nutrients to plants and water purified by magnets. Ninety percent of their plants start out in greenhouses, which saves space and time.

With only two machines, the farm's 180 employees do most of the work. In keeping with the changing culture and spirit of necessity, Vivero Alamar strove to hire women and the elderly, two populations that had previously not been welcomed in farming.

The farm is a co-op with members who have a stake in its development and receive higher wages than the average Cuban.

Cubans still live under the ration system where they get a certain amount of rice, oil and other foodstuffs per person.

But it is not enough. Many Cubans work two jobs because fixed state salaries cannot sustain a living. The best jobs are those that involve foreigners, often in the service sector.

It is Vivero Alamar's employee-focused

policies and commitment to growing food sustainably that bind it to the community.

Thriving organopónicos are changing the way Cubans live and their attitude toward work, farming and food. They have introduced unfamiliar items like broccoli and cauliflower, stocked an ever-replenished supply of fresh produce, herbs and spices and provided a new style of management.

But the organopónicos and the ethos behind them are here to stay. Cuba is proud of its sustainable efforts and its revolution in farming, turning a nation from the brink of starvation into one that can feed itself organically, sustainably and nutritiously.

When asked if Cuban agriculture would go back to industrial production if the means were available, Isis Salcines, outreach director of Vivero Alamar, shook her head as if she was confused by the question.

"I think now people have another mentality," she said.

Stephanie Schwartz, a former journalist, is part of the Interactive Media master's program and was a member of the Cuba fly-in group. The project she worked on can be viewed at www.farmacuba.org. She can be reached at sschwartz6@elon.edu.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ

A local farmer spends his day harvesting crops at an organopónico, one of Cuba's popular organic inspired farms.

Belfast protests expose unresolved tension in Ireland

Emily Cinquemani
Reporter

DUBLIN — Irish newspapers have been filled with images of Belfast protesters waving the British Union Jack flag since early December. Some of these protests have ended peacefully, but many have involved violence. On Jan. 26, RTE News Ireland reported 127 police officers were injured and 175 people arrested due to protests.

Protests began minutes after the Belfast City Council decided to limit the number of days the Union Jack could fly over City Hall. The allotted 15 days were a far cry from the previous yearlong allowance.

The decision ignited the first of many protests that have kept Belfast engulfed in tension for nearly two months. But the present tension regarding the flag sits on the surface of a much larger issue that has gripped Ireland for years.

The spark of the protests originated from the long-standing tension between Irish loyalists and Irish nationalists. Irish loyalists want Northern Ireland to remain a part of the United Kingdom and are opposed to a united Ireland. Irish nationalists are against the status quo and support an independent and united Ireland.

Throughout Ireland's history, there have been disagreements, tension and violence between the two groups. This discrepancy was finally addressed in the Good Friday Agreement made in 1998. The agreement established Northern Ireland as constitutionally part of the United Kingdom, which is still in effect today.

Although this agreement aimed to resolve tension between the two groups, the present protests in Belfast are evidence that problems remain. Valerie Robinson explained in her article for the Irish News that the Union Jack flag is a catalyst that allows protesters to express their anger about deeper unresolved issues.

"It's not just about the flag anymore," said Becky Rowan, 19-year-old student and protester, to The Guardian. "In my opinion it is about so much more. They are trying to take away everything that is British in this society."

Many young people have been involved in the protests, showing the unresolved anger extends to the younger generations as well as older ones. Protesters believe their culture is under attack through the removal of the flag from the Belfast City Hall.

These beliefs, coupled with underlying issues, have stirred animosity amid the loyalists in reaction to City Hall's decision.

While there have been peaceful protests and roadblocks held by loyalist protesters, it is the violence that continues to make headlines.

RTE News reported incidents of rioters throwing petrol bombs at police in Newtown Abbey, a town just north of Belfast. They also reported protesters

have used stones and bottles to attack responding police forces.

During the official vote Dec. 3, BBC reported protesters gathered outside City Hall with metal barriers, bottles and golf balls. Many of them tried to force their way into the Hall during the voting process. BBC reported officers were injured just minutes after the decision was made.

After two months of protests and arrests, the loyalists were not quieting down. According to The Irish News, loyalist protest leader Jamie Bryson recently said arrested protesters should deny bail and remain in jail.

The newspaper quoted him as saying he understands the hard road ahead for many of the protesters and the possibility that many of them will be imprisoned.

"At the end of it all, we will emerge victorious," Bryson said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EMILY CINQUEMANI

The British Union Jack, located to the right of the EU flag, is the central source of controversy in Belfast protests.



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FILE PHOTO BY SHANA MOSS

The Burlington Pet Adoption Center has volunteer opportunities for students that can help relieve stress.

University's 'puppy room' provides stress relief opportunity for students

Megan Cummins
Senior Reporter

As man's best friend, dogs are common fixtures in family homes as well as popular visitors in hospitals and senior centers.

Recently, furry little friends are slowly becoming the newest addition to college campuses, helping to relieve stress often put on students during final exams.

The fad came to light when the National Post reported Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, had set up a "puppy room" during final exams week in early December

2012.

"It fills a niche that people need right now because students are super stressed," said Michael Kean, a Dalhousie junior who proposed the idea.

Student stress is the reason why Dalhousie decided to work with a pet therapy organization called Therapeutic Paws of Canada.

Research has shown the health benefits of therapy animals, which is why creating a puppy room for students has become a popular idea. Even if students don't have time to play with a puppy, just seeing an animal in the emotionally taxing atmosphere of exam

"Taking a 10 or 15-minute time out from writing an essay...and playing with a puppy can help students refocus and refresh."

- Gavin Jardine

Vice President of Student Life, Dalhousie University



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ

John Evans, a participant at Kopper Top Life Learning Center in Liberty, N.C., rides his horse Skip. Kopper Top allows children with and without disabilities to receive therapeutic horseback riding lessons.

time can be a stress-reliever for some.

"Taking a 10 or 15-minute time out from writing an essay or studying for an anatomy and physiology exam and playing with a puppy can help students, not to mention others in a university community, refocus and refresh," said Gavin Jardine, vice president of Student Life at Dalhousie.

Other North American universities seem to have taken note and are starting to include canines in their student programs as well. McGill University in Quebec also brought dogs from Therapeutic Paws of Canada to help students relax during exam week. Pennsylvania's Bucknell University offered a similar service last year, with students lining up for the chance to pet a dog. Kent State University in Ohio has even established its own pet therapy program,

called Dogs on Campus, to help students and staff cope with stress, grief or homesickness.

Though Elon University has yet to join in on this growing trend, there are opportunities available for students to interact with local animals — all while offering the chance to de-stress and volunteer one's time to their local community.

Through Elon's own Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, students can participate in the S.H.A.R.E. program, which supplies opportunities for volunteering at animal shelters by playing with dogs and cats.

S.H.A.R.E. works closely with the Alamance County Humane Society, the Burlington Animal Shelter and the Guilford County Animal Shelter.

International Fellows engage in American experience through ‘Discovering Dixie’

Katy Canada
Senior Reporter

Elon University professor Jason Husser couldn't imagine curtailing the examination of American history to simply reading a textbook or sitting in a classroom.

In a new Winter Term course called “Discovering Dixie,” Husser, assistant professor of political science, led students in the International Fellows program from landmark to landmark in historical cities including Charleston, Atlanta, New Orleans and multiple North Carolina locations.

“I enjoyed getting to know the International Fellows and helping them grow intellectually, both as scholars and future global leaders,” Husser said.

The students completed reading assignments and watched various films during the lengthy bus rides between sites, both of which related to the landmarks students saw along the way. For example, Husser, who is from New Orleans, said students watched several films about Hurricane Katrina so they could better understand what the victims of the storm experienced when they traveled there.

“We looked on an academic level at some of the themes we would encounter like race and the academic literature related to economic and social development of a particular region,” he said.

This critical examination provided context so students would recognize specific themes from films or reading material and

apply those themes to something more tangible when they arrived at a location.

“It's difficult to get a solid understanding of the United States without some sort of experiential learning component,” Husser said. “We can teach certain things in the classroom very effectively, but to have an intuitive and emotional understanding of a lot of content, you have to actually go through it.”

According to Husser, this is exactly the kind of understanding “Discovering Dixie” offers. Students look at the broader history of the United States through the lens of a particular region in the South.

Specifically, the course focused on the themes of politics, history and culture. Students who took the course learned the South has a more complex identity than what is captured by what media have often labeled “Small Town America.”

Students in “Discovering Dixie” also saw how geographic context affects how products are marketed. Many of the students who took the course this year are majoring in marketing, so this was a relevant subject.

Husser said when the group visited the World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta, they not only learned about a keystone of American consumerism, but also about the resurgence of the New South. This experience taught the students that in order to accomplish their goals, they need to have a broad understanding of the cultures they encounter, he said.

A historic tour of rumored haunted areas of New Orleans prompted students to make connections between the history of the city and its folklore. Husser said in some cases, the ghost stories of several different buildings were nearly identical. Picking out the common threads in the stories helped students identify what was important to the people with whom the tales originated.

Husser said he is excited about continuing this course in the future, and he's open to changing



Assistant professor Jason Husser (left) lectured International Fellows on Southern politics, history and culture in the “Discovering Dixie” course.

certain aspects of the course to better suit student interests.

“If they are interested in one thing more than others, we would want to focus more on those things,” Husser said.

Ana Preciado, a sophomore International Fellow from Panama City, Panama, took part in “Discovering Dixie.” She said she gained a lot of important insight about the United States from touring parts of the South.

“I have learned that the South has a stronger identity than the one I thought it had,” Preciado said.

She said she also found learning about the Civil War, Hurricane Katrina and the Civil Rights Movement through firsthand experiences was far more interesting than she could have hoped.

Her favorite city along the tour was New Orleans.

“The buildings and roads are gorgeous, and I really liked visiting Café Du Monde, walking on Canal Street and seeing the Mississippi River,” she said.

Preciado said she anticipates studying abroad during her time at Elon, but she appreciated the opportunity to see unfamiliar territory in the Southern regions of the United States through “Discovering Dixie.”

“I feel like we're not studying just one

particular aspect of the United States, but rather we were learning about many of its aspects and understanding how they came together and influenced each other,” she said. “Everything, from traditions to history to culture to geography, was deeply interrelated.”

Preciado said she may decide to pursue a master's degree or a job that correlates to her marketing major after college, and she predicts the experience and knowledge she gained through this Winter Term course will assist her with her goals.

Who are the International Fellows?

- Elon University students who are non-U.S. citizens or dual citizens
- Spend their four years at Elon immersing themselves in American culture through experiential learning opportunities
- Guided by faculty mentors in their study of U.S. culture



International Fellows toured the flight deck of the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point in South Carolina during their tour of the South.

Presence of blue light emergency phones deters campus crime, supports students

Megan Cummins
Senior Reporter

With one of the lowest college campus crime rates in the country, it isn't uncommon for Elon University students to feel invincible.

Many students find themselves walking home alone at 1 a.m. looking upon the blue light emergency phones that are scattered throughout campus as ornaments of safety requirements.

It may be because of the installation of the phones that Elon's campus is as safe and crime free as it is.

In the event of an emergency, the phones serve two purposes. The first is to give people the ability to report emergencies as quickly as possible. Second, they add a sense of security — students and faculty know there is a way to report an emergency and receive a rapid response.

When the emergency call button is activated at any of the 24 emergency phones on campus, the phone dials directly into the Campus

Safety and Police Department dispatcher, reporting the location of the person in distress. Similar to using a normal handheld phone to call 911, the person seeking assistance can speak directly into the phone to specify their emergency until the dispatched officer arrives on the scene.

"There have only been two calls using the emergency system in the last two years," said Dennis Franks, director of Campus Safety and Police. "I do believe that these lights act as a deterrent for anyone who would be considering doing something improper or illegal."

Students are the perpetrators in about 80 percent of campus crime cases, according to the nonprofit Clery Center for Security on Campus. But various incidents on or near campus that have resulted in violence do send a much-needed safety reminder to students.

"I feel extremely safe at Elon," said freshman Jennifer Taylor. "However, when you receive some of the Smith Jackson emails informing you about an incident like Alexis Gray or the assault that took place on West

Haggard a few months back, you can't help but remember that our campus is still vulnerable."

And vulnerability is exactly what a perpetrator looks for in a potential victim. While most students say they'll call a friend or family member to keep them company when they're walking home alone, this move could be what puts a student at risk.

According to Franks, walking and talking on the phone can easily distract someone from noticing if they're walking into a dark area or knowing their exact location. Their attention is focused on the phone conversation rather than their surroundings, he said.

In addition to using the blue light phones, what can Elon students do to ensure their safety on campus?

"Remain vigilant and always be aware of your surroundings," Franks said. "Don't put yourself in unsafe situations. Lock doors."

Students and staff can also call Campus Safety and Police to escort them to their destination from 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. all week anywhere on campus.



RUTH GRAY | Staff Photographer

In the event of an emergency, the blue light emergency phones allow individuals in need to directly dial Campus Safety and Police.

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Elon alum hosts Zumba Madness this Friday

Jessica Petrocchi
Senior Reporter

Cheri Armour, a member of the Elon University Class of 2009, will be instructing Zumba Madness on campus. Zumba allows both avid athletes and half-hearted exercisers to have fun while working on their fitness and health.

Elon held Zumba Madness around the same time last year – at the beginning of Black History Month.

“Type II diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and high blood pressure are some of the issues that tend to plague the black community,” Armour said.

Zumba Madness promotes a healthy lifestyle for African-American citizens because they generally have a higher rate

of obesity. But this fitness event is open to anyone ready to dance enough to work up a sweat.

“Zumba is important to me because it changed my outlook on working out and I think it can do the same for other people,” Armour said. “I started doing Zumba when I was about 16 and from then on, I had a love-love relationship with health and working out.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one-third of all Americans are obese. Events like Zumba Madness can help people get on their feet, stay healthy and avoid gaining weight.

Campus Recreation actively promotes Zumba with two students, senior Christine Mavraganis and junior Jill Graczyk

teaching Zumba classes.

“Zumba is a serious cardiovascular workout that goes by very quickly,” Mavraganis said. “I try to keep my routines fun and updated so participants enjoy coming to class. It’s a great class if you are trying to shed a couple extra pounds or get into better shape.”

Instructors everywhere seem to agree on the benefits of fitness dancing, especially for people who do not enjoy traditional workouts on machines or strenuous outdoor activity.

“It’s recommended that everyone does at least 60 minutes [of cardiovascular exercise] a day and Zumba can do that for you and it barely feels like working out,” Armour said.

The event is open to both genders, but

Armour said males can be too embarrassed to participate. When she taught a Zumba class at North Carolina State University, Armour had a group of men participate every week and one ended up teaching his own class.

Armour said she feels like she came out of the womb singing and dancing.

“Zumba gives me a chance to do all of these and be physically active while leading other people, and I really love that,” she said.

Zumba Madness

Where: McKinnon Hall

When: 6-8 p.m. Friday

Cost: Free

Sweet Signatures sing their way to the ICCAs

Meghan Mahoney
Senior Reporter

Sweet Signatures, Elon University’s only all-female a cappella ensemble, will be competing in the quarterfinals of the International Championships of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) Feb. 16 at Duke University.

The ICCA tournament takes place in six regions: West, Midwest, South, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Europe.

According to the Varsity Vocals website, the top two college groups at each quarterfinal advance to college semifinals, and the winner of each semifinal is invited to participate in the finals, held at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

Each a cappella group will be competing for cash prizes and the title of Grand Champion.

Sweet Signatures will be competing in the Southern region against schools such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Belmont University.

Sweet Signatures submitted a video and were excited to learn they would be representing Elon in the competition.

Junior Kelly Selong, vice president and treasurer of Sweet Signatures, has been in the organization since her freshman year. She explained the hard work the girls have been doing in preparation for the ICCA.

“At the end of December, we chose two new songs that were arranged over winter break by one of our favorite arrangers, Rob Dietz,” she said. “Once we got back together in January, we compiled all of our professional arrangements, whether they were new or old, and chose our favorite three songs from that group.”

Selong said the group works well together and each woman plays a key role in the group’s success. The mixture of unique talents helps the ensemble experiment and work towards future successes.

According to the Sweet Signatures’ blog, they were nominated for multiple Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards (CARA) in 2011 and placed third overall. They also won “Best Choreography” at the 2009 SoJam competition and the 2008 ICCAs.

Sophomore Elisabeth Jones said the group saw “Pitch Perfect” when it first came out in theaters. The movie shows the story of an all-female collegiate a cappella group as they update their music to compete in



Sophomore Elisabeth Jones performs Amy Winehouse’s “Back to Black” with Sweet Signatures, Elon’s only all-female a cappella ensemble, in Whitley Auditorium at Acappalooza March 10, 2012. FILE PHOTO BY GLORIA SO

nationals.

“It was so dorky, but so much fun,” Jones said. “We loved the movie and it really inspired us to work really hard and polish our music.”

The group usually does not rehearse during Winter Term, but this year they chose to practice frequently in order to prepare for

the approaching competition.

“I am so excited for ICCAs because I know our group has worked really hard on our set and we will continue to work our hardest up until the competition,” Selong said. “We can’t wait for this amazing opportunity to perform in front of the judges as well as an amazing audience.”

SUB streamlines, embraces variety for spring semester

Casey Brown
Senior Reporter

Every semester, the Elon University Student Union Board is responsible for organizing activities and events for students to see, hear and do throughout the week and during the weekends. They bring musicians and comedians to campus, show movies, host game shows and provide Thursday night snacks. While SUB has its staple events the Elon campus has come to expect, the organization has been carefully working to diversify and infuse the new semester with a number of activities.

Some notes on the SUB schedule will be familiar to the Elon community. Movie runs, CramJam, the three-pack weekends of Midnight Meals, SUBLive and SUBCinema – they are all events many have attended before.

But, for Joseph Ziemba, president of SUB, it is important for the organization to expand its content to keep students coming

back.

“This year many execs have been focused on upping our variety of events,” Ziemba said. “Since we do the same series of events every week, they run the risk of getting stale if we don’t make an effort to switch it up every so often. To that effect, our SUBLive chairs, Daniela Nava and Kyle Koach, have done an incredible job spicing up their events.”

A sense of creativity is emphasized throughout each event’s planning process. While most of them are considered an Elon tradition and will come back each year, Ziemba has motivated his team to try new things and experiment with what they have.

“We encourage our execs to get creative, both in those prescheduled events and with entirely new ones,” Ziemba said. “Two years ago we developed the Rock the Lawn music festival with Limelight Records, which was a huge hit and will most likely be a recurring event for us as well.”

Another new event is SUBsassin, which Ziemba said was a big success. SUBsassin, a

game in which a player tries to eliminate all other competitors on campus until he or she is left standing, was introduced this year, and with its success will be returning for round two in the spring. But whatever the event, Rachaele Andrews, co-director of marketing and public relations, says it all comes back to what the students want.

“Overall, the audience appeal is the biggest thing to keep in mind when planning events for the semester because we want to make sure that we appeal to the Elon student body and provide activities for all types of Elon students,” Andrews said.

The executive members of SUB realized in order to create effective events, they need an effective team, which is why this year’s board implemented an application process for SUB committees. SUB has previously been an open organization, but the initial surge of members waned as the months went on. Now with members who have applied for their positions, James Davies, music director, said he can feel the difference in morale

among the group.

“As a result [of the application process], our committee members have been more committed than ever and I feel that each [exec member] can rely on every member in their committee,” he said.

Ziemba realized how busy Facebook pages and email inboxes can get, so he thought of another idea to get the word out about SUB’s major events.

“I designed a new website for SUB that allowed us to have a much more controllable and interactive web presence,” Ziemba said. “At the time, we were struggling with event attendance, so this new site helped us a lot in advertising our events because we could put all the information about every event in an easily accessible site.”

For now, the SUB executive board and all the committees are solidifying the schedule for the spring semester. Some of the highlights for February include a Spring Show reveal in Alumni Gym and Jay Pharoah, a “Saturday Night Live” comedian.

SUB EVENTS—FEBRUARY

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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SUB's Big Events

Stand-up comedian Adam Grabowski performs at an event sponsored by SUBLaughs March 2, 2012 in Irazu Coffee Shop. SUBLaughs provides free pizza and refreshments for students to enjoy during performances. File Photo by Sara Hudak



Rapper Chris Webby performs during Elon University's Homecoming concert Oct. 19 Under the Oaks. FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ



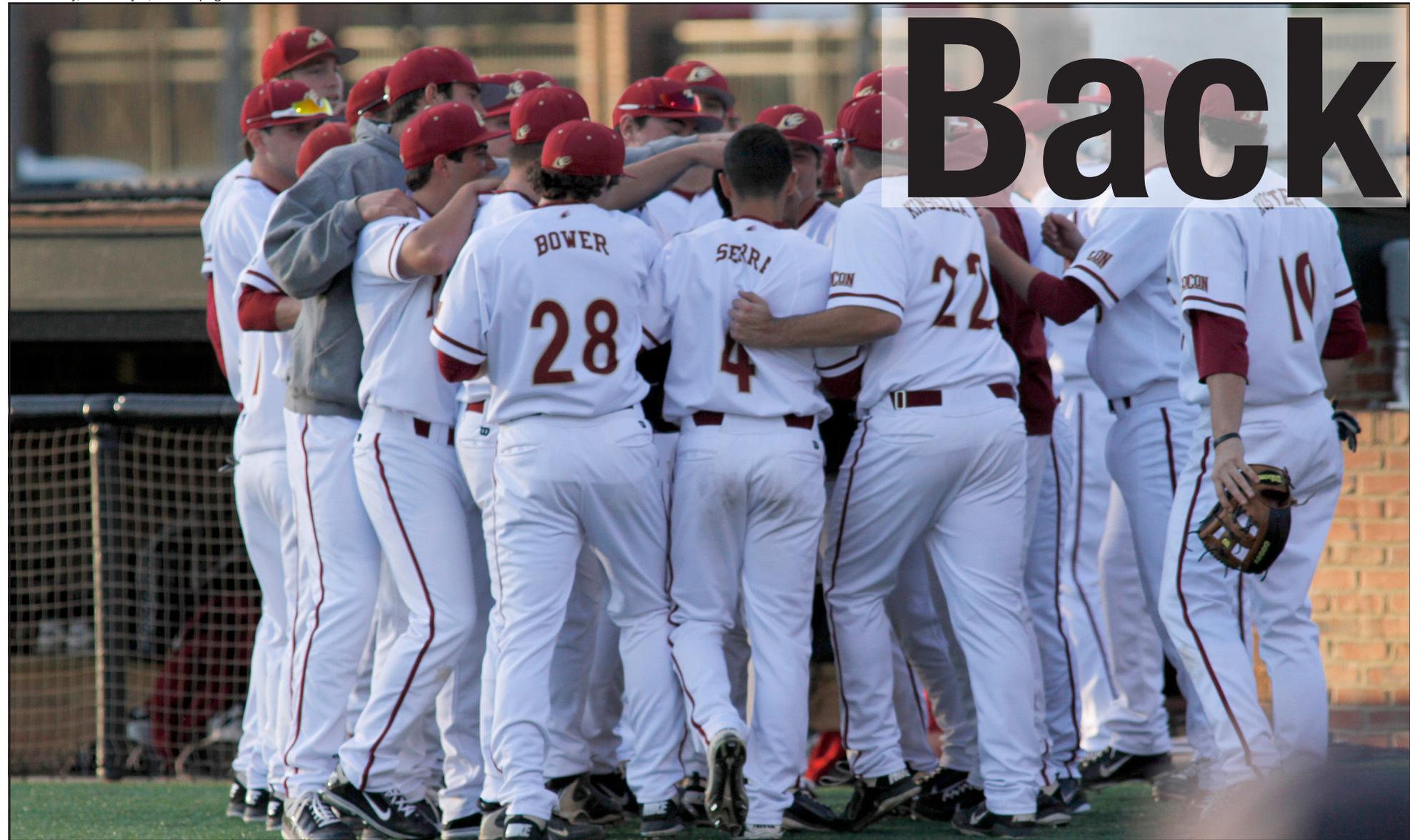
Travis Clark, lead singer of We the Kings, performs at Elon University's Homecoming concert Oct. 19. FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ



SUB partnered with Carousel Cinemas in Alamance Crossing in 2005 to provide \$5 movie tickets to students. FILE PHOTO BY MOLLY CAREY



SUB President Joe Ziembra shows off the organization's awards for best printed advertisement and best web design, which it received from the National Association of Campus Activities last semester. FILE PHOTO BY GLORIA SO



Back

Though losing just two seniors from last year's squad, the 2013 Elon University baseball team will look to rebound from a disappointing 2012 season. For the first time since 2007, the Phoenix did not win either the Southern Conference regular season or tournament championship, nor did it make an NCAA Tournament appearance. With an upperclassmen-heavy roster, the Phoenix looks to regain conference supremacy in 2013.

FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Kennedy cites 'under control' defense as key to successful 2013

Andrew Wilson
Sports Editor

If you ask Mike Kennedy, the 17-year head coach of the Elon University baseball team, one thing will write the script for the 2013 version of the Phoenix.

"Defense," he said. "Catch the ball."

The question is, how will that script end?

"I like our club, but defense last year is what I thought cost us," Kennedy said. "We have to catch the ball. That's been an

emphasis with this group. If we do, we're going to be pretty good."

True to form

Consistent with the culture of the program, the Phoenix plays a tough schedule from the start in hopes of getting back to a place only this year's nine seniors have been: the NCAA Tournament.

"We came here to go to the NCAA Tournament," said junior pitcher David Whitehead. "This team had been there the previous couple years before I got here. This is the year we're going to do it."

Competing in a "mid-major" conference such as the Southern Conference, the Phoenix automatically faces a tougher road to the tournament. While the winner of the season's end conference tournament gets an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, the rest of the teams in the conference wait on edge for their name to, most likely, not be called on selection day.

That's where the importance of the tough schedule comes in.

"We don't want to rely on one weekend in May to dictate the way our season ends," Kennedy said. "It's a typical schedule for

Elon baseball. Our objective is pretty simple: We want to play great baseball and at the end of the year, provided we play well, we have a shot at an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament."

Weekday woes

The Phoenix has missed the tournament two years in a row. Prior to the 2012 season, then-senior Garrett Koster revealed Elon was told it came up one win short.

"One more mid-week win and we were in," he told *The Pendulum* last February.

to basics

The Phoenix struggled in mid-week games in 2012, posting a record of 6-10. To Kennedy, having more mid-week success is a big stepping stone to getting back to the postseason.

“We’ve been close both years,” Kennedy said. “If you look at the breakdown of our schedule and what we have done mid-week, we haven’t had as many big wins as we have in the past. Had we had one or two more of those, we probably would not be having this conversation. That’s just how close we’ve been.”

Leg up from the start

Heading into 2013, the Phoenix knows it has an advantage over years past because of the experience returning to the team. With only two seniors departed from last year’s team, Elon returns the core of a team that fell a game short of the regular season conference championship, including nearly every pitcher off last year’s staff. The only missing piece from last season’s pitching staff is Jim Stokes. He signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians after being selected by the team in the 22nd round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft.

“Not losing anybody on our pitching staff is big,” said senior right-hander Jordan Darnell. “We know what we can do, and we’ve got a lot of experience on the mound. We just have to play our game.”

Seeing as Elon couldn’t repeat as the conference regular season champion nor get to the NCAA Tournament, it could be easy to discount pitching staff because they couldn’t get it done last season. Kennedy doesn’t see it that way, though.

“It’s funny because you talk about getting guys back, that’s great and all,” he said. “But if you get them back and they’re not real good, well, that doesn’t help you a whole lot. But our guys are all capable and they’ve got good arms. They’ve got the time and experience and they’re working

really hard and if they pitch for the right reasons, which is for Elon and for their teammates, then we’ll have success.”

Two pieces, two different returns

The Phoenix also gets two key pieces back in the lineup and in the field with the return of senior catcher Alex Swim and senior outfielder Niko Fraser. Both return to the Phoenix as recently named captains, but the two return in very different fashions.

After leading the Phoenix with a .357 batting average in 2012, Swim was selected in the 36th round of the MLB’s First-Year Player Draft. Instead of leaving school for the major league dream, the senior backstop elected to return to Elon for his final season and finish out his degree in sport and event management. It didn’t hurt that his family lives just 30 minutes down the road.

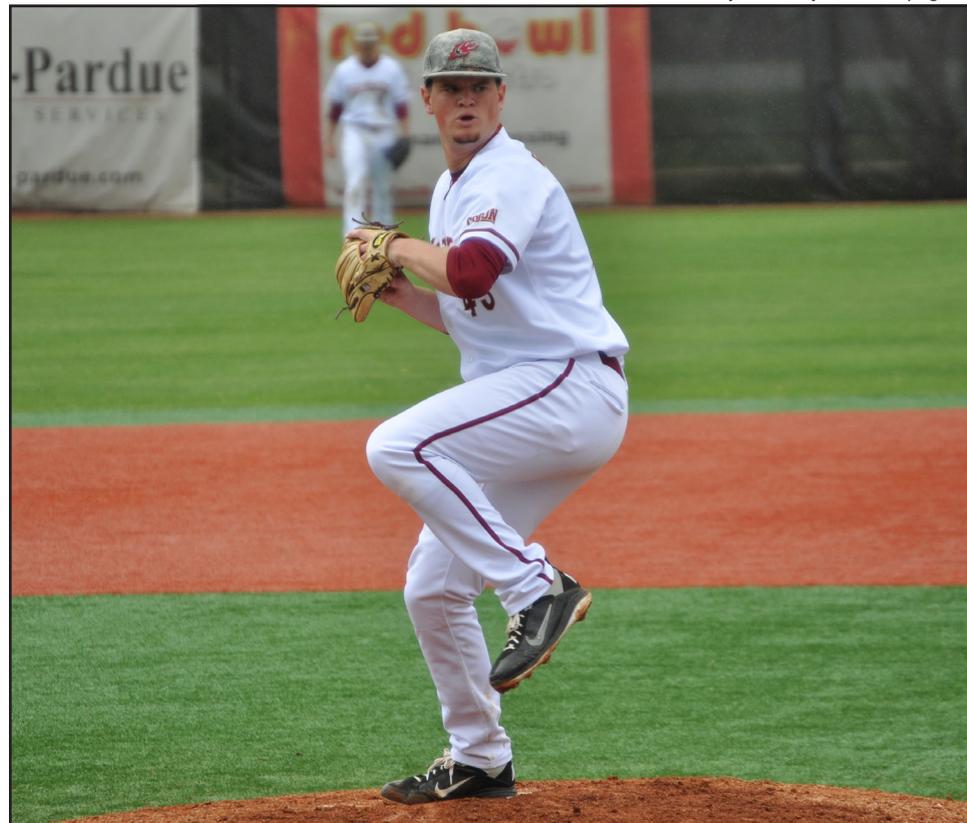
“The fourth year is always the biggest,” Swim said. “Plus I wanted to get my degree and stay close to my family. My family lives in Greensboro, so I get to stay close and finish out my fourth year here.”

While the fourth year on the field could drastically improve his draft status, Kennedy thinks Swim has already improved his status in the eyes of Major League scouts just by coming back for his final season.

“He’s intelligent, obviously, he has a great feel for the game and he continues to get stronger. He’s already improved his status,” Kennedy said. “But most importantly, he gets a degree. That’s the biggest thing. Outside of baseball, that degree is very, very important for him and his family and I think when he’s done, he’ll be very happy he did what he’s doing.”

Fraser, on the other hand, wasn’t worried about making a decision on the MLB or not.

On April 6, 2012, Fraser suffered a concussion in Elon’s 18-2 loss to South-



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ
Finishing 5-3 in 2012, junior pitcher David Whitehead (above) tossed his first career complete game, the only one of the season for the Phoenix, in a 7-3 victory over The Citadel in the Southern Conference Tournament.



FILE PHOTO BY MERISSA BLITZ
Coming back for his fourth year, senior catcher Alex Swim (above) was selected as a third-team member of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association preseason All-America team in December 2012.

ern Conference rival Furman University. While he tried to return April 25 against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Fraser couldn't finish the game, ending his season.

After 10 months away from game action, Fraser is set to return from an injury that has been known to play with the minds of some of the best baseball players in the country.

But Fraser isn't worried about the potential ill effects. In fact, he thinks being away for so long might have been the best treatment.

"Being away might end up being the best thing for me because I'm rejuvenated," Fraser said. "Now every day when I go out there, it's like a child playing. It's like riding a bike. I'm not worried."

Molding the future

The two returning captains, as well as junior infielder Sebastian Gomez and senior pitcher Dylan Clark — the other two captains this season — have a responsibility of not only making sure the veteran Phoenix achieve their goals, but also grooming the incoming freshmen to take the place of the outgoing seniors down the road.

"We have a good group of new guys," Kennedy said. "They're hardnosed kids that work hard, which I'm excited about. They don't always do things right, but that's freshmen. We've got several guys that really have a chance to keep this program going in the right direction with all of the seniors that we are going to lose. It may not look as if they're important this year because we are older, but they are. They're going to keep pushing and keep

getting better, and if our older guys teach them and that carries over, we don't take a drop. That's something we've been most proud of with our program."

Both Swim and Fraser concur it means a lot to be a captain on the team, and both welcome the extended responsibility of preparing the younger players to fill voids when the upperclassmen move on.

"We have a good nucleus of guys," Swim said. "Baseball is a grind. Obviously it's a long season. We have a bunch of young guys, so just showing them the way and leading by example is going to be big."

Surpassing the mind games

With a challenging schedule designed to get the Phoenix to the NCAA Tournament should they be successful from February to May, a veteran, experience-rich club that knows what it takes to win and a solid freshman class entering the mix, what can go wrong? Fraser knows.

"We could get cocky real quick," he said. "We have a lot of potential, but potential is just unused success. If we keep thinking about how good we could be, it could never come to fruition if we get cocky."

He also said, aside from defense, there's something else that could hold the Phoenix back. It's not an in-game flaw, though. It's a pregame mental block Elon must get by.

"The big thing for us is when we go play a tournament and a team like Kentucky or Coastal [Carolina], we have to stop looking at the name on the front of the jersey," he said. "We have to treat them the same way we would as if it were a UNCG or a Davidson. It sounds cliché but it's really true. We have to prepare for every game the exact same way and not let the jersey beat us."

Kennedy knows what can derail his Phoenix, too.

"We need to catch the ball," Kennedy said. "Sometimes we can get too quick and too fast. That's a good thing in some ways, but we have to make sure we play under control defensively. If we play under control in the field, we'll be pretty good. We'll see, but hopefully there's a taste of hunger for these guys to get it done this year." §



FILE PHOTO BY AL DRAGO

Senior outfielder Niko Fraser (above) only played 31 games last season for the Phoenix after suffering a concussion April 6, 2012 in an 18-2 loss on the road against Southern Conference rival Furman University.

Spring 2013 Baseball

Schedule



Feb. 15
vs. Marist



Feb. 16
vs. Boston College



Feb. 17
vs. VCU



Feb. 19
@N.C. A&T



Feb. 22
vs. Kentucky*



Feb. 23
vs. Kansas State*



Feb. 24
@Coastal Carolina



Feb. 26
vs. Liberty



March 1-3
vs. Furman



March 5
vs. N.C. State



March 8-10
vs. College of Charleston



March 12
@UNCW



March 13
vs. Virginia Tech



March 15-17
@UNCG



March 20
vs. Princeton



March 22-24
@Western Carolina

*Baseball at the Beach, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

THE LAST WORD: It's all GRΣΣK to me

Returning to campus after Fake Break, I'm bracing myself for Hurricane Alpha, Beta, Omega. In my time at Elon University, my feelings on Greek Life have usually rested somewhere between loathing and tolerance.



Jonathan Black
Managing Editor

Last Winter Term, Greek Life felt so dominant on campus I thought I'd never have a healthy social life again. Unless I rushed, that is.

You can imagine last year, when one of my best friends told me a few days before rushing that she decided to take part in the experience, I was none too pleased.

Why couldn't she see what I saw in sororities? As much as I insulted and slammed

Greek Life to her, it wouldn't change her decision. Honestly, more than anything, I was fearful of losing my friend.

Recruitment went by, my friend received her bid (along with plenty of memorabilia) and to my surprise, we still saw each other. We still hung out on weekends, we still spent hours in the library and we still ate together.

And it was at those meals that I noticed my friend was – dare I admit it? – happier. She spoke of an organization that accepted her for her quirks and faults. Something began to change in her, something for which I couldn't even take credit. She was finally happy at Elon.

At this point, it was safe to say I could appreciate what her sorority did for her, but I admit I zoned out when she talked about chapter, mixers and various formals. I had reached a happy medium with Greek Life that lasted until this past November.

That month, everything changed. My lov-

ing friend kidnapped me while I was sleeping, forced me into a sport coat and dragged me on a rope to Fonville Fountain outside of Alamance. The impossible had happened. I was at semi-formal.

In reality, she got down on one knee at La Cocina, asked me to be her date and promptly put a ring on it. I had joined the dark side.

I thought semi-formal would be a grand three hours that I would spend hanging around and chatting with inanimate objects while my friend abandoned me for her sisters. (More reason to disagree with Greek Life: It would bring up buried abandonment issues.)

What happened at formal can only be described as an out-of-body experience. The sisters and brothers were friendly to an outsider – something I wasn't expecting. Surely some spirit had taken over my body because I had a good time at semi-formal, much less

a Greek event.

It wasn't until after semi-formal that my friend admitted to me just how unhappy she had been at Elon. Rushing was her last chance at finding happiness on campus and if she couldn't, she would transfer. Even I, the best thing to ever happen to her (or so I presume), couldn't have stopped her at that time.

Greek Life was her last attempt at finding purpose at Elon, and she found it. Twice Greek Life proved me wrong, and I will forever be indebted to it for keeping my friend at school. As much as I want to, I can't hate something that helped someone when they were at their lowest emotionally.

So, yes, I am dreading returning to campus and being surrounded by Tory Burch, sister dates and matching T-shirts. But will I at least appreciate the effort many of the girls, both new and old, are making? Absolutely.

SuperBowl Sunday

- Baltimore
- San Francisco
- NFL
- Championship
- Touchdown
- Field Goal
- Quarterback
- Referee
- Forty Niners
- Ravens
- Halftime Show
- Lombardi
- MVP
- Beyonce
- National Anthem
- Pass
- Tackle
- Flag
- Yards
- Running Back

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Top Tweets

@kellysmith192

This is what the NFL gets for only giving Beyonce 12 minutes #lessondished #sherunsttheworld

@gregbrzozowski

If a power outage happened last year during the Super Bowl w/ the Giants playing, you could find me in the fetal position not handling life

@HeadPhoenix

Okay Elon people. This is the word you need practice working into sentences on a frequent basis: quasiquicentennial

@poeticjusTess

Note: being a non-Greek at Elon for fake break is kind of like being allergic to cats and thrown in the Internet.



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