

THE PENDULUM

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Racial bias at Elon

INCIDENT REPORT FORM | STORY ON PG. 5

Were you the targeted person?

Yes

No

How do you want this handled?

I want the report filed for informational purposes only and do not want to meet/talk with anyone.

I want to be contacted about the report to consider my options, share additional information or ask questions.

Describe the incident

“THE MOST YOU CAN DO IS HOPE TO NOT EVER SEE THE PERSON AGAIN. I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD REPORT IT BACK THEN, AND I THINK I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO REPORT, EITHER.”

JASPER THOMAS
JUNIOR

The young, the undecided

Freshman voters split on first-time elections

Emmanuel Morgan
Senior Reporter

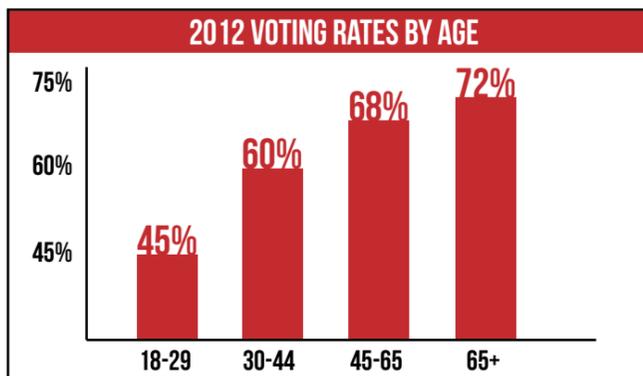
A few years ago in Las Vegas, the election results for city council members ended in a tie — causing the winner to be decided by drawing cards.

Kenneth Fernandez, assistant professor of political science at Elon University and director of the Elon University Poll, remem-

bers this rare occurrence from his prior teaching stint at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Ever since, he has encouraged students, especially freshmen, to vote in elections.

“For democracy to function, we can't just sit back and watch,” Fernandez said. “We have to be

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STEPHANIE HAYS | Design Chief

For Elon's early birds, tailgating starts with the sun



ALEX SIMON | Sports Editor

The @Elon7amTailgate crew with the grill.

Alex Simon
Sports Editor

It's 6:55 a.m. when Brian Martindale '95 arrives in the Ingold Lot at Rhodes Stadium for the 3 p.m. Elon University football game. It's a cold Homecoming morning, and the man known as Wink has a job to do.

“Wink, have you sent out the tweet with the flag yet?” David Oakley '91 asks. “Can't be later than 7 a.m. with that.”

Martindale and Oakley are two members of the most unique group of supporters in town: @Elon7amTailgate. Along with David Rich '87 and Mike Cross, the four have formed a niche at Elon, both in person before the game and on Twitter.

The mantra for the group's tailgates is consistent: arrive by 7 a.m., cook good food, hang out with friends and support Elon's athletic teams. On Homecoming Saturday, the group expected a massive turnout and decided on serving a pig for all to enjoy.

Dig deeper, and the support of Elon expands beyond the group's tailgates — all four are members of the Phoenix Club's Athletic Advisory Board, and all are significant donors to the athletic department. Cross, who is the only member that is not an Elon graduate, is the Chair of the Advisory Board.

Oakley Family Affair

Known as “The Grill Master” in the group, Oakley has the deepest running allegiance to Elon.

His father, also David Oakley '65, celebrated his 50th reunion this weekend, and his mother, Carol, worked in the vice president of student life for the greater part of 22 years. The parents are local celebrities at these tailgates, and many major Elon administrators stop by to say hello.

But the younger David recalls a time when his parents were not just providing sweet bread and toffee to tailgaters. As an Elon student, the Oakley family resided near Williams High School, where the Fightin' Christians played all of their football games.

“My fraternity or my sister's sorority would show up at my mom and dad's house in the backyard,” Oakley said. “They would

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NEWS

Owner of Tony's Pub-N-Subs accused of Homecoming assault pg. 6



STYLE

Senior Rebecca Hurd is Elon's comedy queen pg. 12



SPORTS

Women's soccer works on perfecting set pieces pg. 16

It's not personal, it's business

Job-seeking students use on-campus interviews to find employment

Max Garland
Assistant News Editor

Business and finance majors at Elon University have been flying in and out of the doors of the Student Professional Development Center (SPDC) for the past few weeks, being interviewed by major company recruiters for entry-level job and internship opportunities for after the spring semester.

Most recently, Avis Budget Group, a parent company for multiple rental car services, held an information session Oct. 19 and on-campus interviews Oct. 20 for graduating seniors seeking operations and management positions.

Recruiters will typically send one or two representatives to conduct roughly 10 half-hour interviews per day with students, according to Beth Mannella, Elon's interim recruiting and event coordinator.

The companies recruiters represent vary through the academic year, but from October to November they heavily involve finance, with companies such as Northwestern Mutual, Credit Suisse and Greenspring Associates throwing hats in the ring.

Brooke Buffington, the associate director of career services for The Spencer & Martha Love School of Business said tax season, the period beginning in January where people prepare to file their tax return by the April 15 deadline, limits the resources of financial and accounting companies to recruit in the spring.

Looking for interns and en-

try-level workers in the fall is the smoother option for companies with busy springs.

Much of the recruiting happens for those companies in the fall.

"Right now it seems like it's all financial companies because they like to recruit very early in the fall," Buffington said. "But as we move into the spring semester, you'll see that the on-campus recruiting is really diversified as far as the types of employers that come in."

On-campus interviews find matches

"Employers have the opportunity to recruit Elon talent, and these offices [in the SPDC] provide space and accommodations for them to do that," Mannella said. "They can conduct interviews for internships, full-time positions, whatever they need. Students can apply for an interview through the Elon Job Network, and if they land an interview they schedule a meeting with the employer for the day that they're here."

Mannella said some employers might not consider a candidate if they don't do a face-to-face interview.

These on-campus interviews have become the backbone of their college recruiting process.

"Employers love to come to campuses and recruit," Buffington said. "A lot of them come here to do information sessions with students to show them what they're looking for. Even if students don't get selected for an interview, they can build a rela-



Howard Steinberg (left) of A Betterway Group, a licensee of Avis Budget Group, meets with sophomore Benjamin Kalra as one of information sessions and on-campus interviews the SPDC has been conducting this fall.

tionship with the company. The more you can be in front of an employer, the better."

Be it finance or communications, most on-campus employer interviews are structured as preliminary interviews. Second-round interviews at the company's location are given to those who impress in the on-campus interview, Buffington said.

"A resume is just one of hundreds in a stack a company will have," Buffington said. "A face-to-face interaction is so much better. You can represent yourself in the right way and build

a relationship with the employer. Your own words offer so much more to them."

Recruiting across disciplines

Students in other majors aren't lagging behind in their job search.

The recruiting pattern for financial companies is much earlier than others, leading to recruiters from these companies to travel and interview students in the SPDC as early as October.

In other majors, such as communications, the hiring process is much more immediate. For

entry-level jobs in a communications-related field, students typically have to wait until the spring semester, according to Ashley Pinney, the associate director of corporate and employer relations in the School of Communications.

It's completely different.

"Companies like Wells Fargo know the jobs they have in mind for students far in advance," Pinney said. "Communications is a complete 180. They don't know what they need to fill until the spring, and we meet with students who don't look until next semester."

Elon ranks low in socioeconomic diversity

Lagging behind peer institutions, university aims to increase endowment, financial aid

Simone Jasper
Assistant News Editor

As a part of Elon University's strategic plan, the university aims to increase its need-based financial aid budget. But on a national scale, Elon has been ranked lower than many other peer universities in terms of socioeconomic diversity, according to a recent New York Times index.

The Elon Commitment — the university's 10-year plan — includes an initiative to double the endowment-funded, need-based financial aid budget by 2020. The goal is to have the student body's demographics better reflect the real world.

"One of the commitments that Elon has is to make sure the university is not a gated community where the only people who attend are the ones who can afford it," said James Piatt, vice president for university advancement. "The university wants a robust and lively student body that represents all aspects of society, including families who might not be able to write off the cost. It's important to provide opportunities for those students to attend Elon."

But in September, the New York Times' The Upshot College Access Index ranked Elon as one of the least economically diverse institutions in the country. The index evaluated colleges and universities across the nation on several factors, and Elon placed 176 out of 179.

By the Numbers

\$191 million:
Elon's endowment during the 2014-2015 school year

33 percent:
percent of Elon students who take out federal loans to pay for their education

The index measured the share of students who receive Pell Grants, graduation rates of those students and the price that colleges and universities charge both low- and middle-income students. According to the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard, 9 percent of Elon students receive Pell Grants.

But Patrick Murphy, director of financial planning, questioned the index's focus on Pell Grants because income isn't the only factor that makes students eligible. He also believes the study failed to recognize what Elon has done with its resources, including a smaller endowment than some of the schools that ranked higher on the list.

"Endowment has been historically low," Murphy said. "Elon has been in existence for 125 years, but the average age of alumni

is relatively low. It takes a while for somebody to have enough money to give. We have efforts in the campaign with the focus of endowment funding for financial aid."

Elon's endowment was \$191 million during the 2014-2015 school year, according to the university Fact Book.

Elon's endowment per student is \$27,000, whereas nearby Wake Forest University and Davidson College have endowments per student that exceed \$100,000, according to the New York Times index. According to Murphy, schools with larger endowments might be able to give more money to students who demonstrate financial need.

Piatt said his department's priority is to ask for donations to support scholarships. The plan has involved meeting with potential donors in person and sending information in the mail.

"Since 2006, donors have established more than 250 endowed scholarships," Piatt said. "It's a great number, but when you consider all students at Elon University, we would like to have more."

Elon has a variety of scholarship funds, including ones for academic programs, athletics and ROTC. In recent years, the Odyssey Scholars Program, which provides anywhere from \$7,500 to full tuition for students who demonstrate financial need, has expanded.

"In about 15 years, we've gone from a total of eight students to over 100 students,"

Murphy said. "We're expecting that to climb."

Another factor contributing to the socioeconomic diversity challenge is Elon's tuition, Murphy said. Elon's discount rate of tuition — the percentage of tuition that goes back into financial aid — is 18.2 percent, he said.

A study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers found the average discount tuition rate at private institutions was 41.6 percent for undergraduates in 2014-2015.

Murphy said Elon is hesitant to raise tuition to allocate money for financial aid, so the university is focusing instead on expanding existing programs, such as Odyssey scholarships. Though the program continues to expand, the university still can't give money to everyone who wants to attend.

"We don't have the ability to meet financial need," Murphy said. "Students have to fill the gap with loans or help from a family member. It's a big deterrent."

About one-third of Elon students take out federal loans to pay for their education, according to the College Scorecard. The Office of Financial Planning works with students through the process of finding aid outside and within the institution's funds.

"Even though we're rarely able to meet full financial need, we look at each student individually," Murphy said. "Our counselors do a good job at that."

Piedmont Angel Network



“Shark Tank” event

- Regional entrepreneurs pitch
- PAN investors give feedback
- Elon students engaged

Tuesday, October 27
4:45 p.m., KOBC 242

www.elon.edu/dohertycenter | omarak@elon.edu

Ashton Newhall Lecture

Jess Ekstrom founder of



(a socially conscious business that helps children with cancer)

*seen on or featured in:

InStyle *seventeen*

and more!



Thursday, November 5
5 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

ELON UNIVERSITY

Doherty Center *for*
Entrepreneurial Leadership

****UPCOMING EVENTS****

Triple Impact Challenge

- 5-minute pitch competition
- 2 tracks:
 - social and environmental
 - new business ventures
- Cash Prizes (\$500, \$300, \$200)
- “Pitch” workshops available
- Welcome to all Elon students

Wednesday, November 11
4:15 p.m., Lakeside Hall

Register at www.elon.edu/tripleimpact

2016 Winter Term:

Innovation in America
BUS270A

****Includes travel to
Silicon Valley****

Open to all Elon students

For more information, contact
Scott Kelly: skelly25@elon.edu

Limelight seeks to be Elon's music authority

Production label has signed new artists, planned more events



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIMELIGHT MUSIC GROUP

Limelight Music Group has signed four new artists this year, and is hoping to grow as an organization.

Elizabeth Kirkhorn
Senior Reporter

Elon University's on-campus production label Limelight Music Group is experiencing a year of growth and expansion, with four new artists signed and six events scheduled already.

"We want Limelight to be the group known for their music finds," said Teresa Kuhns, the organization's vice president of marketing and promotion. "We want to reach and connect students with a passion for music."

Limelight, which has been

operating since 2010, has had a productive school year so far. The organization started by hosting live auditions in early September with the goal of finding exciting new musical acts to sign. The try-outs were met with enthusiasm from artists of all genres and backgrounds, but the executive board at Limelight decided to pare their roster down to only a few acts.

"We decided to only sign four artists for the year," Kuhns said. "This is so we can focus more time and energy on really developing these artists."

Representing Limelight this

year is a diverse collection of acts. The list of committed artists is composed of rapper Lucas Trujillo, singer-songwriter Tara Uncles, electronic DJ ADzMAN and full pop-punk band The Tripps, comprised of Brett Cashmer, James Setzer, Matt Snow, and Mike Hagen.

Some of these acts, like The Tripps and ADzMAN, have called Limelight home since their freshman year at Elon. Some of them, like Uncles, are being welcomed aboard for the first time. While ADzMAN has already played shows in New York City and has

an online following, production major Uncles is still working on her first full-length album. No matter where these unique artists fall on the spectrum, Limelight executives say they are equally committed to each one of their acts.

"Being signed to Limelight means artists have the access to resources for recording their own original content, promotional opportunities around campus, a team of people to help them build their personal brand and paid playing opportunities," Kuhns said.

Limelight has also been busy recruiting new members to work behind the scenes of the operation. A number of freshmen were attracted to the on-campus label and are now working on one of Limelight's two cooperating teams. The first is artists and repertoire, responsible for managing the signed acts and booking nearby gigs. The second is promotions, whose members are hard at work publicizing their acts to Elon's student body.

"I joined Limelight because it seemed to be a group of people who were very passionate about creating and sharing good music," said freshman affiliate Brooke Muller. "It gives me the opportunity to learn more about the field I hope to work in when I graduate. I'm really looking forward to helping spread great music throughout Elon."

Limelight executives still feel like they are a long way from perfection. Kuhns said that leadership in the group is working on restructuring the organization this year, making internal changes that will benefit the group in the long run.

The focus of the organization is

shifting from getting their acts in the studio to pushing their music on the streets. Limelight is looking to increase the online presence of its artists, as well as book more off-campus gigs for each act and possibly produce a music video or two.

Limelight is also looking into splurging on a few massive events, such as a street festival featuring each of their performing acts. This would involve shutting down one of the university's main streets in order to put on a series of concerts there. Limelight executives say this is unlike anything the organization has attempted before, but they have a large budget that has gone largely unused in previous years, and they are ready to utilize these funds in a big way.

"We are planning on holding another album release party much like we did at Fat Frogg at the end of last year," Kuhns said, referencing the celebration party for "The Green Album," which featured a blend of the best songs from Limelight's 2015 recording artists. "Also, we're planning on a couple of music videos to be released — potentially with some collaboration amongst different artists."

As the year goes on, members of Limelight are growing more excited about the future for new projects and ideas.

"Limelight brought us together and allowed us to create some awesome moments, and allowed us to share that with so many different people," said Cashmer, frontman of The Tripps. "Going forward, we really want to get some more of our own music out there and play as many shows as we can."

LLC mentoring program debuts

Sarah Wood
Senior Reporter

Elon University's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) strive to engage students and create connections around campus. This



Christian Seitz

year, the program introduced a new leadership position for upperclassmen wanting to stay involved: student ambassadors. The Living Learning Community student ambassadors (LLCSA) serve as liaisons to the LLC Adviser. They assist with planning events, administration, student connections and mentoring the students in LLCs.

"They are students that are very motivated and very connected to the community," said Laura Arroyo, associate director of residence life for residential education. "They also sit on the advisory board for me. One of the other missing parts that I saw was that we didn't have an advisory board of students that were giving feedback in a regular way in our LLC program."

The U.S. News and World Report has ranked Elon's LLC programs as among the best in the nation.

Though the goal is to have one student ambassador per LLC, only about half ac-

tually have one. Some LLCs don't need one because they have other student mentors or leaders, such as Cultural Linguistic Mentors, who are native speakers located on world language floors.

"This is one way where we are trying to make students feel engaged in their community," Arroyo said. "Students in their first year are super engaged in their community, and when they return, they are trying to figure out what that engagement looks like. You want a different experience in your second year then you want in your first year."

Students were chosen for the position last semester and were required to have lived in a community for one year. They are able to serve as an ambassador more than once, depending on the adviser. LLCSAs also provide input on individuals applying to the position beginning next year.

"I decided to become an LLCSA because I wanted to employ my learning from the classroom in residential learning initiatives accessible to the community at large," said senior Max Whelan. "I also wanted to strengthen the ties between student members of an LLC and their faculty advisers."

Though this program is new, it has already brought about improvements within the community.

"The program has definitely made an impact so far," Whelan said. "A lot more students now have the opportunity to get



FILE PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL

Students socialize in the Communications Living Learning Community in Sloan last spring.

involved with campus residential life and to shape the learning environments outside the classroom they are a part of."

Senior Christian Seitz, student ambassador for the Polyglot House in the Global Neighborhood, also sees the benefits of the program.

"I have seen a positive impact," Seitz said. "It bonds the disparate parts of the hall together as opposed to each language group staying separate like they did last year."

LLCSAs differ from Resident Assistants (RAs) since they focus specifically on

community needs. Before the program was created, RAs juggled the responsibilities of both the LLC and the rest of the floor in some cases.

"The RA builds community in a whole host of ways," Arroyo said. "They are wearing a lot of hats, and we felt that there needs to be some support for them."

Arroyo said the adviser and RA are committed and connected to the LLC.

"I see it as a hand in hand," she said. "I don't see one as more important than the other. I see them as different roles but very important in both ways."

Reported bias incidents rise on campus

But reporting is a dilemma, and the system isn't always used

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

At last night's "Fireside Chat," community members met in the Global Commons Media Room at Elon University to discuss, dissect and acknowledge the 29 reports of bias, discrimination and harassment received by the Office of Inclusive Community Well-Being in winter and spring 2015.

Of these 29 reports, the most common type was verbal harassment motivated by race and ethnicity. But while 29 reports of bias — up 12 from the previous fall — might seem high to some, students who have experienced incidents of racial bias, discrimination and harassment, feel the number seems far too low.

"I think some students don't report because they do not want to be scrutinized and victim-blamed by white students on campus," said sophomore Alonzo Cee. "There is still a lot of denial as to the events that happen on this campus because of the [Elon] 'bubble' mindset."

When asked if he has personally experienced an incident of racial bias, harassment or discrimination on Elon's campus, Cee began with, "One of the many..."

Sifting through possible options, he chose to recall a specific event that occurred when he was serving as a Safe Rides volunteer and one of the passengers in his car yelled a racial slur at him.

According to Cee, who is biracial, many of his friends of color have experienced similar incidents.

"It's especially sad to see it happen to my friends [who] are first-years as well," he said. "I feel like I've experienced all kinds of racial bias on this campus."

Cee said while he did not think twice before reporting the incident because he firmly believes that reports need to be made in order to change the climate, many of his peers choose not to do the same because of perceived responses from the overall Elon community.

Just a month ago, the Presidential Task Force on Black Student, Faculty and Staff Experiences revealed that of the black faculty and staff respondents, 74 percent reported incidents of disparaging race-related comment directed at them, and 65 percent of 151 black students reported the same.

Leigh-Anne Royster, director of Inclusive Community Well-Being, said it's hard to compare these numbers in a useful way. The statistics underscore the need for the community to continue to support efforts that address bias, harassment, hate and violence.

"Continuing to work to both provide comprehensive resources to folks who have been the target of these acts and focusing efforts on education to prevent these incidents in the first place are two key aspects of creating a more inclusive and welcoming community," Royster said.

According to Dean of Multicultural Affairs Randy Williams Jr., one step toward igniting social change around racial bias is through the process of reporting incidents.

"There's a great deal of power in reporting," Williams said. "We want

to be able to respond to these cases in a way that speaks to the sense of safety and security we strongly want to achieve on this campus. One way of doing that is to make the administration aware."

In its two years of existence, Elon's bias, discrimination and harassment reporting tool has served as a way for students to gain the support, confidentiality and access to report and take action surrounding discrimina-

tion, bigotry and microaggressions.

There were
29
reports in the
winter and spring

To report or not to report

Junior Jasper Thomas said other students choose not to report because of a lack of awareness about the reporting tool and doubt about the change that can be made from reporting isolated incidents. These reasons dissuaded him from reporting an incident he faced at a fraternity party where a peer yelled a racial slur at him.

"The most you can do is hope to not ever see the person again," Thomas said. "I didn't know I could report it back then, and I think I didn't know if it was important enough to report, either."

If he could change his decision, Thomas said without a doubt he would have reported the incident.

"These things need to be reported," Thomas said. "Without those reports, there will be no foundation or awareness for things to change for future students."

Royster said across all identities, every incident that involved discrimination, in any way, is worth reporting.

"Separate people may experience a similar act very differently," she said. "We will do our best to prioritize the agency of students, faculty and staff who report incidents of bias and/or harassment and will take time to explain all available processes and necessary procedures."

Privilege and the bystander's role

To Thomas and Cee, privilege on campus plays a primary role in the denial, lack of acknowledgment and overall unawareness of discriminatory racial incidents on campus.

"I don't think the general student body is aware of the issue at all," Thomas said. "If you don't have to experience it yourself, you won't feel the need to take the time and energy to go out and see what's happening in other communities."

Junior June Shuler said asking questions, acknowledging privilege and serving as an advocate is crucial to breaking that norm.

Shuler recalled the time one of her closest friends, a student of color, brought up an incident in which a passerby yelled a racial slur at her

during a fraternity party. While the incident itself alarmed her, Shuler said she was mostly taken aback by the way her friend described the experience in a "matter-of-fact" and "numb" manner.

"We say that we 'belong' on this campus, but do we allow access for minority students to feel that sense of belonging?" Shuler said. "Acknowledging my own white privilege, it's very dangerous to think that we, as a campus, have allowed for such incidents to be a norm for some students in our community."

Shuler said incidents of racial discrimination, bias or harassment often occur on campus at parties, where students are under the influence of alcohol.

"Alcohol isn't an excuse," Shuler said. "Even if it's under the influence of alcohol. This is the 21st century and we're on a campus that always talked about diversity and belonging. This shouldn't happen."

After hearing her friend's story, Shuler couldn't let it go. That very night, she put all her homework aside and sat in front of her computer, drafting an email with the subject: "From a concerned student." Ensuring that her message would reach authorities who could make a difference, she included higher members of the administration such as Leo

There were
17
reports in the fall

Lambert, Elon University president, and Smith Jackson, dean of student life.

"I didn't feel like [what happened to my friend] was my story to tell," Shuler said. "But I wanted people to be aware that it happened."

Shuler encouraged bystanders to report incidents.

"It's sad because something like a reporting tool shouldn't have to exist in the first place," Shuler said. "But it's important to recognize that the people who receive the reports are those who really care and really want to change campus climate and you shouldn't have to experience something to want to change it."

The reporting process

According to the Office of Inclusive Community Well-Being's website, the three goals of reporting are to 1) support and respond to those who have experienced identity-based hate, 2) respond directly to offenders if identified and 3) track the overall incidents in our community each year. With this information, the office hopes to tailor educational efforts for the campus community and report about campus climate.

The reporting tool is online-based, but students, faculty and staff are also able to make reports over the phone and in person.

Whichever means of reporting the individual or parties involved choose, the reporter will retain control over their identity being released

to other parties, unless ordered to do so by a court subpoena or as mandated by Title IX, in cases of gender-based violence and harassment.

After a report is made, members of the community will have a variety of options for redress. As the website states, "From criminal prosecution, to campus judicial processes and community restorative justice options, [the office] supports the agency of the targeted person in their preferred process in the aftermath of an incident of bias."

"Even if the person does not choose to engage in a process in the aftermath, the information helps us track patterns over time and best direct resources to improve campus climate," Royster said. "Even if you are not the target of an incident, if you witness it — report. That information is just as helpful in assessing campus climate."

Process Advocates, faculty and staff members from across campus who are trained to advocate with the individual or groups seeking to understand or process an instance of bias, harassment or discrimination, also play an integral role in the reporting process.

Working across institutional departments to best advocate with the individuals involved, Advocates support and help the involved parties, especially in the pre-reporting and post-reporting process where individuals involved may choose to simply talk about the incident with an identified, trained authority figure.

"Process Advocates don't lead the student into reporting anything or don't guide the conversation," Williams said. "They serve as a support mechanism and are there to answer questions, listen and offer advice if requested."

Students can also choose to report incidents — especially when events occur on public streets or walkways — to Campus Safety & Police. These reports can be filed through Campus Security's LiveSafe application, a smartphone application that allows students and employees to share information anonymously, if they choose to by text, photo or video.

"Since the app was launched we have consistently seen the number of reports submitted go up," said Dennis Franks, Director of Campus Safety & Police. "The rise in reports was expected as our community has gotten used to the app and have seen the positive results from their reporting of incidents or issues."

Sharing information to the public

Currently, the only public forum where information about reports are shared to the public community are "Fireside Chats," an event series led by the Office of Inclusive Community Well-Being where Royster shares information about reported incidents from the previous semester and offers a question and answer session regarding campus processes and resources.

Royster said because any given incident includes intersectionality — as many events might reach beyond different identities and intentions — a public forum serves as a positive way to continue conversations about these events while acknowledging that they happened.

TERMS TO KNOW

BIAS INCIDENT

Elon takes its lead from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which defines a bias incident as "conduct, speech or expression motivated, in whole or in part, by bias or prejudice. It differs from a hate crime in that no criminal activity is involved. While hate crimes, if charged and prosecuted, will be dealt with in the court system as well as through our Elon policies, Elon will handle bias incidents through grievance procedures and educational programs.

DISCRIMINATION

Prohibited discrimination occurs when an individual suffers an adverse employment, academic or other decision based on protected categories.

HATE CRIME

In North Carolina a hate crime is defined as any act prohibited by law that is motivated because of the victim's race, color, religion, nationality or country of origin.

HARASSMENT

Conduct (including verbal, written, visual or physical conduct) that denigrates or shows hostility against an individual based on his or her protected categories when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with his or her work or academic performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or offensive working, living or learning environment. Prohibited harassment occurs when an individual suffers an adverse employment, academic or other decision based on protected categories.

PROTECTED CATEGORIES

The following are considered "protected identity categories" with respect to discrimination, harassment and bias: age, (dis)ability, ethnic origin, faith tradition, gender expression, gender identity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, race and veteran's status.

Bringing in speakers requires extensive process

Sarah Wood
Senior Reporter

The process of narrowing down speakers to come to campus for cultural events, convocation and forums is a combination of research and ideas from the local community or people on campus. In other words, it's a substantial process.

Jeffrey Clark, director of cultural and special programs, is one of many in charge of finding and bringing in speakers to Elon University.

Clark and Brooke Barnett, associate provost for Inclusive Community and professor of communications, narrow down a short list of potential speakers pulled from websites, newspapers and suggestions from individuals. Barnett then takes the information to senior

staff for further discussion. This is usually done a year to 14 months in advance.

"I provide the information that they need to make the decision," Clark said. "I do not make the final decision. Once the decision is made, I deal with the speaker's agent and negotiate the contract, set the schedule, and plan the event."

There are four main speakers every year, including a fall and spring convocation speaker, a keynote speaker during Winter Term and the Baird Pulitzer Prize lecture series speaker. Other smaller events include the Voices of Discovery and liberal arts forum speaker series.

"We kind of tie into university initiatives," Barnett said. "We always try to think about what would be most interesting to students, that way we can make academic connections to the speakers that we have on campus."

The Common Reading is another type of event that brings in either the author or someone associated with the theme.

"Obviously, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not able to be here," Barnett said. "We had to think of some other person who writes a lot about the theme of the book [and that was] Leonard Pitts Jr. He has a Pulitzer, so it was a perfect combination to have the common [reading] and Pulitzer series combined."

Choosing the speakers also involves surveying some students, faculty and staff. Names and descriptions of speakers are shown, and then the group provides feedback.

"It's not us working in a vacuum to decide things," Clark said. "We get input from outside as a group. Inclusion is a major component."

The cost is dependent on a speaker's agent, as they have a set price. After the price is defined, it is negotiated until an agreement is reached. There are several budgets that the

different type of speakers come from including convocation, commencement and Baird Pulitzer series speakers.

The economic downturn in 2008 resulted in some agencies reducing their fees in order to help schools and other places afford to bring in speakers. But the fees have since increased.

"I think there is a greater assortment of big name, high dollar speakers out there now than there was five years ago," Clark said.

Speaker contracts are not all inclusive, and agents require the cost to be confidential. It can involve paying for airfare and other expenses.

Some of the bigger-name individuals require first-class travel, while others even require private planes.

Unlike most universities, Elon spends only a small portion of the money on commencement speakers and is more focused on the fall and spring convocations. Alumni, friends from school or parents usually serve as commencement speakers and only speak for 10-15 minutes.

"Some schools put their major money into Commencement, which I think is unwise for Elon," said former Dean of Cultural Programs George Troxler. "You may not remember who your Commencement speaker was since you were excited about other things."

Choosing a big-name speaker would lose the opportunity for students to have small group discussions rather than just listening to the main speech.

"Most of our speakers have other contact with students," Troxler said. "We get better use out of our speakers. If you calculate what some schools pay for Commencement speakers and how many minutes they speak, they may pay \$5,000 a minute for someone to speak, and I don't see that as worth it."



Leonard Pitts Jr. spoke about "Race in America" on Sept. 24 in McCrary Theatre. PHOTO BY ALEX HAGER

Alumnus claims Tony's owner assaulted him

Max Garland
Assistant News Editor

An Elon University alumnus has accused Tony Caruso, the owner of Tony's Pubs-N-Subs, of punching him in the mouth after an altercation over a sandwich early Oct. 17.

Caruso has not been charged with a crime and said he didn't know who hit the man — but that it wasn't him. Jay Morrow '97, the alleged victim, said he's contacted an attorney and is looking to proceed with any charges possible.

The alleged assault occurred inside Tony's around 2 a.m. Saturday of Elon University's Homecoming Weekend, according to a Town of Elon Police report. Officer Ditra



Caruso interacts with a customer in the space where he was accused of assault. FILE PHOTO

Graves of the department wrote in her investigation of the incident that she found Caruso wearing

an orange T-shirt splattered with "what appeared to be blood." Morrow told police his assailant wore

an orange T-shirt.

In an interview, Caruso denied throwing a punch and said an "unknown" man struck the victim, then left.

"There has to be a witness there that saw it happen," Morrow said. "There's no way someone unseen just came between [Caruso] and I and hit me, and then got past the security guards."

Caruso denied any involvement in the altercation.

"[Morrow] was clearly intoxicated," he said. "No one working here or involved here did it."

Morrow was transported to Alamance Regional Medical Center Saturday to be treated for an "open cut" to his face. Graves observed Caruso wearing a ring that "could

have" caused the injury, the report said.

Other Tony's employees told police Morrow was yelling, complaining about a long wait for an "[expletive] sandwich."

Two employees told Graves the victim arrived intoxicated and behaved belligerently, spitting on Caruso and another worker. Morrow admitted he was intoxicated, but "not to an extreme."

Police immediately found no witnesses to substantiate the alleged assault. The case is now inactive, according to Asst. Police Chief James Perry, meaning no further investigation will take place in the absence of new information. But Morrow can bring forward new information at any time.

VOTING from cover

proactive and be engaged."

Though voting is considered a civic duty in the United States, some freshmen who recently turned 18 — the legal age to vote — view it as daunting task. Freshman Kyle Albertelli said since he doesn't have enough knowledge about politics, he should not vote.

"Politics has never interested me, and I don't follow it like I know I should," Albertelli said. "I don't think that I should cast an uninformed ballot that could potentially decide who the next leader of the free world will be."

While many 18-year-olds agree with Albertelli's reasoning, there are others who think the opposite. His classmates, freshmen Connor

Quinn and Parker Schuppenhauer, enjoy the idea of voting for the first time and approach it seriously — taking a different approach from what they did when they were younger.

"I've definitely been more serious about it," Schuppenhauer said. "I've actually been thinking about who I would vote for rather than making fun of the candidates like I did in years past. It's actually a reality now — it's not a dream."

Quinn, who took a government and politics class in high school, said his family has always been heavily involved with voting. But by informing himself through watching the recent Republican and Democratic debates, his political awareness increased, making him value the significance of the 2016 election.

"I think you have to want to be educated about this," he said. "When you actually know what's going on, it becomes really interesting."

Because of the diversity of this year's presidential candidates, Fernandez said he thinks voter turnout will be especially high at Elon Nov. 3, but he does expect some will shy away because of their lack of knowledge. But Fernandez said all it takes to make an informed decision is a brief online search, which anyone with a smartphone can do.

"At no point in history has there been such easy access to information," Fernandez said. "Just by looking things up, you can create dialogue with your colleagues, which in turn can spark a greater interest in politics for the future."

Fernandez said the university is taking the necessary steps to prepare students for Election Day. TurboVote, a university-sponsored online program, is available to assist students with voter registration in either North Carolina or their respective home states.

The political science department and campus organizations are also hosting numerous events, such as a dialogue panel on national immigration Oct. 20.

"If people learn about the process of electing and some of the key issues these candidates are discussing, the students will feel more engaged," Fernandez said. "They will feel less intimidated and more inclined to go out. They'll realize it's actually a painless process."

Numerous freshmen will be casting their ballot for the first time at the 2016 presidential election. Though Quinn said he is dreading the thought of enormous lines of voters on Election Day, he is ready to do something he has waited a long time for.

"I'll definitely be a little anxious, but after I drop my vote I will be incredibly happy," he said. "Afterwards I'll wear my sticker for the rest of the day and be like, 'Hey, I'm an American.'"

Cheat Sheet: Middle Eastern conflicts

Since the first protest of the Arab Spring in December 2010, the Middle East and North Africa have dealt with power struggles, episodic violence and more protests.

What's been going on in the Middle East?

Egypt went from a long, oppressive dictatorship for decades to democratic elections in 2012 to a military government in 2014. Long-awaited parliamentary elections began Oct. 18, but many believe the elections will strengthen President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi's control rather than end the country's long process to democracy. The

effective at defeating the Islamic State and gaining territory in Syria. Turkey has warned the United States about backing the rebels, fearing they will gain enough territory to threaten Turkish sovereignty.

The country also experienced its worst-ever terrorist attack Oct. 10, when twin bombings killed 102 people in Ankara, the capital city. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has blamed the Islamic State for the attacks, but the group has not claimed responsibility.

Conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has erupted in what many experts and news outlets have suggested could be the third intifada, or uprising. Young adults and teenagers — as young as 12 and 13 —

Has any of the Middle East embraced democracy?

Tunisia is the only country that successfully moved from the deposition of a dictator to peaceful elections and democracy during the Arab Spring. In 2013, it looked as though the country might fall into civil war, but through peaceful conflict resolution initiated by the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, the political parties agreed on an interim government. By January 2014, Tunisia had its first constitution since the overthrowing of President Ben Ali three years earlier.

The Quartet is a group of representatives



CHRISTINA ELIAS | Design Editor

second round of elections will be held in November.

Libya ended Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year dictatorship in 2011 with support from a NATO-led no-fly zone. But when the interim government refused to step down in February 2014, civil war erupted and continues into today.

Syria's civil war has dragged on for four and a half years now, taking a toll not only on Syrians and the country's infrastructure but also on the countries taking in Syrian refugees, especially Jordan and Turkey.

Turkey has experienced uprisings from the Kurdistan Workers Party, a group made up of Kurdish militants who want to carve their own state out of Turkey. To the Turkish government, this group is a terrorist organization that needs to be eliminated. But the United States has backed Kurdish rebels in Syria since they have proven

have been killed by Israeli armed forces in the Old City of Eastern Jerusalem.

How did the fighting start?

For years, there have been rumors that the Israeli government has been creating policies that restrict access to the Temple Mount, or Haram al-Sharif for Muslims. With this recent spate of violence, young, radicalized Palestinians living in impoverished conditions in Jerusalem are lashing out because of new rumors that the Israeli government wanted to take control of the al-Aqsa mosque within the Temple Mount.

As videos, images and tweets of the violence circulated online, more and more Palestinian youth picked up knives in retaliation. Since Oct. 1, seven Israelis and 44 Palestinians have been killed, and more than 1,770 total have been injured.

from the General Union of Tunisian Workers, the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, the Tunisian Human Rights League and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers. The four non-governmental organizations (NGOs) formed the Quartet to help save Tunisian democracy, which was threatened by institutional gridlock and Islamic extremists.

Historically, these four groups did not have similar interests, but they came to the table ready to work together. Their peaceful means of solving the conflict in Tunisia led to their winning of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The committee in Norway that selected them as the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize said it has "hopes this year's prize will contribute towards safeguarding democracy in Tunisia and be an inspiration to all those who seek to promote peace and democracy in the Middle East, North Africa and the rest of the world."

CRIME REPORT

Oct. 14 LARCENY MOSELEY CENTER, ELON:

An unspecified amount of money was taken around 11:30 p.m. from a student's wallet left at Winter Garden Café in Moseley Center, according to a University Police report.

Oct. 15 MARIJUANA POSSESSION STALEY HALL, ELON:

Three smoking devices with marijuana residue were found in a Colonnades D dorm room Thursday night. Police initially went to the dorm in reference to a loud noise complaint, according to a University Police report.

Oct. 17 RESISTING ARREST

WEST TROLLINGER AVENUE, ELON:

An Elon University student reported to Town of Elon Police around 3:30 a.m. Saturday that she and her friends arrived back at her apartment and saw an unknown white male asleep on her couch wearing only a long-sleeved T-shirt and boxers. She said he became hostile and locked himself in the bathroom when they tried to get him to leave.

The man eventually came out of the bathroom after police arrived but would not leave the apartment. He resisted the officer's attempts to get him outside, and the officer eventually placed him under arrest after he continued to refuse.

The man, who was visiting Elon for Homecoming weekend, later told police he was so drunk that he thought he was at the apartment he and his girlfriend were staying in.

He was not able to call anyone to get him out of Alamance County Detention

Center because his cell phone was located in his missing pants, according to the report.

Oct. 18 PHYSICAL ASSAULT EAST HAGGARD AVENUE, ELON:

A student reported to Town of Elon Police that an alumna invited to her Sheridan Place apartment, punched her in the shoulder and left the residence Sunday morning.

The student said she asked the alumna to move after a beer spill so she could clean it up, and the alumna punched her and left with the roommate afterward.

The student said her shoulder was sore but she did not sustain any significant injuries. When talking with police at the scene, the student said she did not know where her roommate and the alumna went after leaving the apartment.

News Briefs

University cable converting to digital

Within the next two weeks, Elon University residential television will be converting from analog to digital cable. Every channel, with the exception of HBO, will be in high definition. Channel numbers will also be rearranged as various channels are added or deleted. When this change occurs, students will need to go to their TV menu and change the settings. Students can visit <https://wiki.elon.edu/dashboard.action> for step-by-step directions.

Grad School fair to be held Wednesday

Elon University will host more than 50 schools at the Graduate and Professional School Fair 4-7 p.m. Oct. 21 in Moseley Center's McKinnon Hall. Students and alumni are encouraged to attend and talk with admissions officers regarding graduate school opportunities with their respective institutions.

Students will have the chance to register for a scholarship giveaway for Graduate Records Examinations prep courses offered by the Student Professional Development Center. Five names will be drawn at the fair to receive reimbursement on a graduate school application fee worth \$50 or less.

Alumni from Black and LGBT communities honored

The 2015 Elon Black Alumni Network Awards and the Elon Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Enrichment Awards ceremonies were held Saturday evening as part of the annual Homecoming festivities.

The Elon Black Alumni Network (EBAN) honored Kebbler McGhee Williams '98, Dan Ridley '93, Yasmine Alexandra Arrington '15, Torrance Winder '14 and Faculty Administrative Fellow Jean P. Rattigan-Rohr.

The LGBT Community Enrichment Awards Recipients were Christian Adam Wiggins '03, Shelby Lewis '16, Registrar Rodney L. Parks and Dean of Student Health and Wellness Jana Lynn Patterson.

Fall Blood Drive begins Thursday

Elon's fall blood drive will be held 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Oct. 22 in Moseley Center's McKinnon Hall. Individuals who wish to donate can sign up at <http://www.redcross.org/blood> with the sponsor code "Elon." Those interested in volunteering during the drive or have any questions can email blooddrive@elon.edu for further information.

All debates are worth watching

HOW WE SEE IT

Watch all party debates with equal respect, regardless of your political views.

Staff Editorial

Elon University students gathered to play drinking games. Tweets during the event focused more on the opponents' jibes and behavior than their talking points. Students laughed and joked. The purpose of the event went largely ignored.

Almost a month later, students gathered again for a similar event. This time, they listened. Tweets praised the opponents' remarks and intelligence. This event achieved its purpose, though perhaps to the detriment of the first one.

These two events — the Sept. 16 CNN Republican Debate and the Oct. 13 CNN Democratic Primary Debate, respectively — had the same purpose and were even aired by the same station. But responses to them on Elon's campus were very different. Republican and Democrat events, ideologies and politicians receive polarized treatment here,

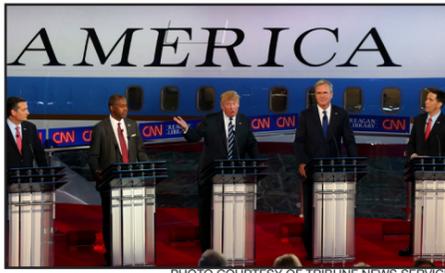


PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
Republican candidates at the Sept. 16 debate.

and it detracts from everyone's awareness of the political climate as we approach the 2016 presidential elections.

We all need to watch the Republican primary debates with the same seriousness we have when we watch the Democratic ones. Or, if you tend to align with Republican views, watch the Democratic debates with the same respect you use when you watch the Republican ones. Political affiliation doesn't matter as much as political tolerance and interest, and right now, that's lacking for much of Elon's liberal-leaning campus.

The Democratic and Republican primary debates give viewers the chance to watch serious discussions of the candidates' views and plans. But when these debates aren't taken seriously, are ignored or are mocked, they lose their

usefulness. For the debates to be effective, they need to be watched with the intent of learning something, and the different parties' debates need to be watched with equal attention.

As members of an institution of higher education, everyone at Elon University needs to pay equal attention both sides of the conversation. These debates offer relatively rare, unfiltered looks at what the candidates are planning, should they be elected to office. Even if the debates bring up an opinion we disagree with, we can use them as opportunities to better understand and explain our own position on the topic.

You may not agree with Jeb Bush's energy policy, but you at least need to know what you don't like about it so you'll be able to identify an energy policy you do agree with. The same goes for Martin O'Malley's immigration reform and Hillary Clinton's New College Compact. Familiarize yourself with these policies and know what you're talking about before you reject them.

If you don't hear a perspective, a view or a plan, you won't know it exists. You won't be able to decide for yourself if you agree or disagree. So do yourself — and everyone else who'll be affected by the outcome of this election — a favor, and pay attention.

Home-coming alumni have advice to share

HOW WE SEE IT

Students need to listen to returning alumni's perspectives on life after Elon University.

Staff Editorial

The alumni came, celebrated Elon University and left. Did you learn anything new from them?

Last weekend was more than a time for reconnecting. It also offered a rare opportunity for alumni to form new connections with current students and for current students to learn from former Phoenix who have been out in the "real world" for as little as a few months or for as long as a few decades.

Friday, Oct. 16 marked the beginning of Homecoming 2015, during which an estimated 2,000 alumni — according to the Office of Alumni Engagement — returned to Elon to reconnect with the university and old classmates, professors and friends.

Alumni are more than just older friends to party with. They've done something current students haven't done: graduated. It's obvious, but some current students need to be reminded that alumni — no matter how long they've been out of college — have experiences to share and advice to give. They've lived the post-grad life.

The events planned by the university and student organizations were great ways to welcome graduated friends back to Elon. But they were also settings in which students could meet former students they'd never talk-

ed to and who could offer advice for the rest of college or life after.

Older alumni — such as the class of '65, here for their 50th reunion — obviously have wisdom to share. But so do younger alumni — such as the class of '15, here for their "0th" reunion — who have more current advice to share. The world they graduated into is nearly similar to the one we will graduate into, and we should be eager to take any advice they can offer. We can listen to what they have to say, or treat them like they're still students and do the same things we did when they were students here.

Have fun with alumni. Don't put them on a pedestal. Welcome them back with open arms. But take time to actually talk with them and listen to what they have to say. You might learn a thing or two.

We need to take sports concussions seriously

Sports culture encourages athletes to play through pain. It romanticizes toughness, grit and perseverance. That culture also breeds



Alex Simon
Columnist

the mindset that a broken bone or a torn ligament will heal, but the chance to compete in sports will be gone before you know it.

When it comes to a concussion, the damage sports cause isn't visible. It's always been something that, according to the culture, is "just a headache" and can be played through.

But brain injuries don't heal like other injuries. When people receive multiple concussions, they put themselves in danger of

long-term neurological issues.

According to a study conducted by a team of Johns Hopkins University specialists, there is evidence that accumulated brain damage in former National Football League players can be linked to memory loss that the subjects had decades after they stopped playing football.

Additionally, in 2013, the PBS documentary series "Frontline" teamed up with reporters Steve Fainaru and Mark Fainaru-Wada to produce "League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis."

The two-hour film took an extensive look at traumatic brain injuries, talking to doctors, activists, former players and the families of former players who have passed because of brain damage.

This issue isn't just in the NFL, though. It's an issue here on Elon University's campus, too. Emily Williams was hired by Student

Health and Wellness in fall 2014 to be the athletic trainer for Campus Recreation's club sports teams.

In her first full year on staff, she diagnosed 18 concussions. That's 18 injuries to the brain that, before Williams was hired, would probably have been poorly dealt with — and students may have continued to play through the injury.

The sports culture that encourages athletes to play through a concussion is a massive problem. I know this firsthand because those long-term issues could be happening to me.

I had one officially diagnosed concussion in high school. It's more than likely that the one diagnosed concussion came from trying to play through one head injury and receiving another just a few days later. I didn't go to the trainer and get diagnosed until after the second blow.

I probably had two or three more go undiagnosed when playing sports recreationally. I never took myself out.

Instead, I said to myself, "Shake it off," and, "You will be good in a second." I didn't have any issues in the short term, and never thought much of the repeated blows.

But a month ago, I started getting headaches again. They came without any premonition or a known cause. It quickly brought back the memories of my previous concussions. It made me wonder if I had made a mistake when I didn't stop playing after a blow to the head.

Now, as I deal with the headaches and try to figure out why they're happening, I can't help but think that I indirectly caused this through my previous indifference.

By not taking the blows to the head seriously before, I'm being forced to take them seriously now. Sports culture needs to, too.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is a daily news operation that produces a newspaper, website and magazine. Letters to the editor are welcomed 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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Editorial policy: The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

Music, the best cure for stress

According to partners from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health, 115 million people in the United States have experienced stress in the last year, and 1 out of 4 U.S. citizens say they have dealt with serious stress in the last month.



Lucia Jervis
Columnist

Stress is very common among college students. It gives students headaches and

pimples. It makes them concerned about every move they make, about every exam they have to take, about every word that comes out of their mouths. Students try to get rid of this tension by doing yoga or by taking pills, but the best cure for stress is music.

Music has power. Music can be as complicated as math or as simple and clear as water. It can evoke 100 different feelings at once. Music has a unique connection with the human body.

A Tchaikovsky violin concert can help us leave our troubles behind, can help us breathe and think clearly as we try to figure how the combination of so many instruments can suddenly make our bodies feel relieved, our muscles relaxed and our brain clear.

A Mozart concert can transform anger into joyful tranquility, and metal music can make us more determined and help us work more quickly. An Ed Sheeran song can make us feel melancholic, and a Louis Armstrong song can help us appreciate every detail around us.

When music plays, so many different emotions and thoughts flow over us that there is no place left for stress. Every part of our body is so focused on the music that the stress and the bad sentiments within us are incinerated.

The irony of stress is that it makes us feel that we have so much to do, that listening to music could be perceived as a waste of time. Music helps us be more efficient by making us more focused.

We don't realize it, but when a relationship we were fond of is over, we drown our sorrows in music, in particular songs that will make us feel better. Our sadness is balanced by the music, and there is a sense of relaxation in our body.

When we are in a party dancing, music is what makes everything not awkward. It gives boys the courage to talk to girls and ask them if they want to dance. Music excites people when they hear their favorite song at a party and start singing their lungs out.

When you have to write a 2,000-word paper and stress is dominating your body, listening to a classical composition will make your stress disappear. It will help you focus on the prompt, and your fingers will fly across the key board as the blank sheet in front of you is filled with words. Music just makes everything better.

Coping with stress is never fun. It is frustrating, it makes us tense, and it makes us lose an incredible amount of time. The best way of taking stress out of our daily routine is by listening to music. It doesn't matter which genre or style. Any music that can transport our imagination from one place to another and make us feel good is the cure to our stress.

The Pendulum is renewing its efforts to serve as a voice of the Elon University community. Each week, this space will feature a column from a member of the community. Want to participate? Contact us at pendulum@elon.edu.

Campus Voices

Be more than 'practical'

As someone who teaches courses within the arts and sciences, specifically in the Department of Religious Studies, I often hear students say some variation of the following: "I love my courses



Lynn Huber
Religious Studies

in religious studies (insert any other arts and humanities field here), but I need to take a major that will get me a job after college."

The student then proceeds to tell me what field she/he/they are choosing to appease this sense of responsibility to her/his/their future self. The field may be in a professional school, but it is just as likely to be in a department within arts and sciences that the student has deemed "practical."

To this reasoning, I call "BS." Here's why:

1) **Undergraduate education is about learning how to read, write and think carefully and critically.** You've heard that before, but I don't think we can stress it enough. Learning these skills takes practice, and you can, arguably, practice these in any field of study. In fact, one of the great things about a liberal arts education is that you get to practice these skills in a variety of fields of study, even some you may not be crazy about.

2) **It's hard to see the future.** I hate adopting the role of the

"older-person-telling-you-how-things-were-back-in-my-day," but I'm going to do it anyway. When I graduated from college in 1992 — with a philosophy degree, BTW — many of the jobs people are doing today simply didn't exist. App developer? Didn't exist. Social media manager? Nope.

Not all of the fields that have emerged over the past 25 years have to do with technology either. Interfaith chaplaincy wasn't really a thing, nor were careers related to supporting sustainability and responding to increasing diversity in academia and the workplace.

Simply put, what seems practical today might not be so practical in 10, 15 or 20 years. It's important to be educated in a way that makes you intellectually nimble so you can change with the times.

3) **It is more than likely that you will not be in the same job for your entire life.** Heads up, you won't even be the same person in 10 years. Again, critical reading, writing and thinking skills are transferable across careers. These skills make it easier for you to adapt to new opportunities and paths.

Focusing primarily on skills

associated with a particular profession is fine, if you are passionate about that field. But if you're not passionate about the field and are choosing it just to be practical, you're not doing yourself any favors. If you don't love the profession, you're not likely to stay with it over the long haul.

4) **Students across the university are on a path to meaningful employment after graduation.** Finding a job after graduation is not limited to those in professional schools. According to a "Cap and Gown" study conducted by Elon University last year, 69 percent of students from the arts and sciences were employed, and 24

percent were in graduate or professional school nine months after graduation.

Yes, the employment numbers were higher for students

nine months out of the schools of business and communications (88 percent each), but their graduate and professional school numbers were considerably lower than in arts and sciences (5 percent for business school graduates and 9 percent for communications).

Thus, if someone suggests

that majoring in arts and sciences isn't practical, tell them that the data doesn't support it. While employment rates may be lower nine months out, that's because many of the arts and sciences students who aren't employed are in graduate or professional school, going on to be lawyers, doctors, social workers, educators or working on the advanced degrees necessary for any number of life paths.

I recommend that students study what they love. Study the things that interest you and energize you. It might take some time to figure out what those things are, but this is your time for doing just that. The options are amazingly endless. Studying what you love will make you want to study more, think more, do more, investigate more, ask more. These are practices that will make you successful in college and eventually successful in life.

Note that I didn't suggest studying what you find easy. Often, the things we love are things that challenge us to think in a new ways, push us to give up old ways of thinking and sometimes frustrate us. But these are things that are required for growth, development and flourishing.

And I didn't say don't major in marketing, strategic communications or any other number of professional school majors. If you love it, you should be there. But if your passion is in another field, you're selling yourself short by staying there. Start doing what you love now. It may be the most practical move you can make for the future.

BE EDUCATED
IN A WAY THAT
MAKES YOU
INTELLECTUALLY
NIMBLE SO YOU
CAN CHANGE
WITH THE TIMES.

DOCTORS' ORDERS

A STATE FAIR TO REMEMBER



Lauryl Fischer & Frankie Campisano
Columnists

Once a year, folks from all walks of life find themselves waking in the middle of the night to an inexplicable autumnal energy flowing across time and space, telling them the time has come. The annual people-watching state championship, otherwise known as the North Carolina State Fair, has arrived.

If for some reason you haven't gone to the N.C. State Fair yet, perhaps because you traded your opportunity to feast on deep-fried Krispy Kreme burgers for a good ol' tailgate at this year's truly subpar (the two dozen attend-

ees might even say downright underwhelming) Homecoming game, then never fear: the deep-fried Krispy Kreme Burger will still be waiting for you this weekend. That's right folks, the N.C. State Fair, in all its deep-fried, sugary packaging, is still in town. And it's only at the N.C. State Fair that you can learn a thing or two about college and maybe life. If you're majoring in animal husbandry, you can probably learn dozens of things.

At the N.C. State Fair, everyone's a winner. Except, that is, for all the money you spend on fried cookie dough, the subsequent stomach issues, the reappearing fear of any theme park attractions that suspend you upside down that you thought you'd gotten rid of when you were nine and the animals that live less than desirable lives even if they've earned a pretty ribbon. What a time to be alive and at the N.C. State Fair.

But if your time at the N.C. State Fair isn't as grandiose as you'd hoped, you can always just hum a little ditty or jingle to summon your N.C. State Fair-y Godmother. No, that's not just the lady who's selling homemade pies out the back of her van, and no, it's not suspicious that no one's ever seen the two of them in the same place at the same time.

R_X PRESCRIPTION

Doctors' Orders is a weekly satirical column in which two unprofessional, definitely fake doctors offer up prescriptions for their Phoenix patients.

Have fun — hey, have the time of your life, for all we care — just make sure you're back at Elon before midnight. Nothing good happens at the N.C. State Fair after midnight. But if you have a horrible time and need another faux-traditional fall activity to satisfy that craving for pumpkin spice and unnecessary neck wrappings — scarves, people — you have other options.

And in case you're one of those rare types who reads the Opinions section of The Pendulum hoping to score a recommendation on a quality corn maze, Ken's Korny Corn Maze is the happiest place on Earth, provided that list is restricted to solely corn mazes.

A stroke of anatomical genius

Science cafe series bring body painting to Fat Frogg

Hannah Silvers and Hope Koene
Copy Chief and Copy Intern

Any other night, the sight of three students' exposed muscles and bones would have caused a panic among patrons at The Fat Frogg Bar & Grill. But the evening of Oct. 13, Elon University Physician Assistant Program seniors Lisa Nichols, Boyd Vicars and Kim Heald smiled and joked as they walked between the restaurant's tables, flaunting arms and legs painted with realistic representations of the underlying muscular and skeletal systems.

Their body paint wasn't just a test run for Halloween. The three women, along with body paint artists seniors Bree Johnson and Mackenzie Precht, are in a class taught by Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies Cindy Bennett, whose hands-on pedagogy turns her students into textbooks.

"We are able to put the microscopic picture together with the macroscopic idea," Bennett said.

To demonstrate the anatomy skills learned in lecture, students apply washable paint to their peers, representing the underlying anatomy on the surface of the skin.

But Bennett's approach to teaching anatomy isn't just artistic — it's revolutionary.

"What's kind of neat is that as far as I know, I'm the first person to do this in the United States," she said.

Body painting as pedagogy

Bennett "takes the show on the road" as often as she can, presenting at science fairs by displaying her students' work. In her latest endeavor, she presented "Climbing inside humans: A hands-on look at anatomical body painting" for the October installment of Tectonic Plates: Alamance County's Science Cafe, a monthly series dedicated to bringing scientific learning into the community.

The former OB-GYN and surgeon introduced body painting into her classroom in her first year at Elon to counterbalance the lack of academic opportunities for students to get their hands dirty.

"I started body painting the first year I was at Elon because we had a human donor lab that the PA program was set up with," Bennett said. "The plan was that we would do what's called anatomic dissections. What that means is that I'd teach the anatomy, I'd do



Caitlen Arnett, junior at Western Alamance High School and Elon Academy participant, shows off the bones painted on her hand.

some slides, people would come in, they'd see it already dissected, and then we're done."

Without dissection initially included in the curriculum, Bennett needed to develop a kinesthetic approach to teaching anatomy. Lacking access to cadavers, she turned to a resource she did have — live students.

"I was a bit intimidated by the examples we saw," Vicars said. "They were all so intricate. But you do a little at a time, and put it all together."

Bennett began her presentation by bringing the three students onstage and asking them to flex their muscles, using the painted extremities to explain how specific internal body parts work together. Accompanied by her live models and a PowerPoint, Bennett outlined the origin of the art of body painting and its evolution as an academic tool in other countries.

"At some point, anatomists who saw this art figured out body painting could be an excellent teaching tool," she said.

She also showed pictures of body painting sessions done by former students, providing anecdotes of students' "Aha! moments" when they understood a concept after painting.

"When there is something they don't understand, they paint it, then they say, 'Oh, now I get it!'" Bennett said.

Patrons of Fat Frogg got to witness a few "Aha! moments" themselves. Twice during the presentation, Bennett asked for two volunteers to get painted. She showcased the finished artwork onstage as she explained the anatomical importance of each bone, muscle and artery painted on the

body parts of the volunteers.

But the point of the presentation wasn't to showcase the students' artistic and anatomical expertise — rather, Bennett's goal was to explain the importance of kinesthetic learning to an audience beyond her classroom.

"There is science to be had, and my end of body painting is teaching the science, but it's also the science of educating people," Bennett said.

Her current research involves how body painting impacts student learning, and her recent focus on this topic is what sparked her to contact Dave Gammon, associate professor of biology, about presenting at a Tectonic Plates event after hearing about the series during a science fair at Holly Hill Mall in 2013.

"It was right in there when I heard what Tectonic Plates was, and I thought, 'Wow, that sounds awesome, I want in,'" Bennett said.

Originally, Bennett didn't feel she had a specific topic to present — but as she developed body painting as a learning tool over the past few years, she realized she did have something to offer after all. She contacted Gammon, who immediately put her on the schedule.

As excited as she was to feature her students' hard work, she was nervous about interacting with her audience. Used to presenting to graduate school students, she admitted her initial concerns.

"It was a little daunting," Bennett said. "I don't want to talk down to anybody, but I don't want to talk over people's heads, either. And we're here, we're in a restaurant, there's lots of chitchat. If you're not entertaining enough, people will just walk out and leave."

The evolution of Tectonic Plates

Bennett was the latest presenter in Tectonic Plates, which started about four or five years ago as Gammon's brainchild.

"I've always been interested in science outreach, the interface of science and society," he said. "I was just Googling around, thinking, 'What are some avenues for getting science out to the public?'"



PA senior Boyd Vicars shows off the anatomic body painting on her arm.

And I stumbled on the concept of a science cafe, which is an international concept."

According to ScienceCafes.org, where Gammon initially encountered the idea, science cafes are informal grassroots events hosted by scientists anywhere from restaurants to coffee houses with the goal of engaging a specific scientific idea with a group of people who normally wouldn't participate in scientific conversation.

"It looked like if you wanted to start a science cafe, all you had to do was start it," Gammon said. "You don't need a regulatory body or anything. So I thought, 'Could I do it?'"

He talked to other members of the biology department, who granted him reassign time to devote to investigating and developing Elon's own science cafe. He taught fewer classes, using the time to tour other cafes around the country.

Once he had the idea down, he had to think about logistics. He needed somewhere close to campus with a large stage. Luckily for Gammon, Peter Ustach '09 gave him the space at Fat Frogg.

With the details finally set, the program officially premiered in spring 2012 and has hosted eight or nine programs each year since. Gammon has seen the program grow since then, drawing in a cross-section of the Elon community.

"We see more community members, though it varies from talk to talk," he said. "We do usually get some Elon students, a half dozen sprinkled here and there, and sometimes the speaker will be an Elon professor who will en-

courage students to come."

Elon reaches out

According to Gammon, Bennett's engaging style brought more casual patrons into the presentation than past presenters'. More than 40 members of the community engaged with Bennett and her students.

A table of local high schoolers turned out, thanks to outreach by Elon Academy Assistant Director of Scholar Support John Pickett. He brought along five participants of Elon's college access and success program, two of which volunteered to have their bodies painted.

Caitlen Arnett, a junior at Western Alamance High School, practically jumped off the stage to show her body art to her peers. She said the graduate student who painted her hand made a point to explain what she was painting and why.

"She was telling me a mnemonic device to remember the bones in your hand," Arnett said. "She was telling me how cool the class and the painting is, and how it helps her during exams."

Elon's emphasis on community involvement and hands-on, person-to-person education aligns well with Gammon's mission for the Tectonic Plates series, a fact not lost on him or Bennett.

"I like being at Elon because there's this big emphasis on experiential learning," Bennett said. "I've had lots of freedom to bring seemingly nutty ideas like this one, and I've been stunned to see that not only are people OK with me trying it, but they're like, 'Do you need a budget?' It's great being at a school that allows stuff like this."

TECTONIC PLATES

Where: The Fat Frogg Bar & Grill | 7-8 p.m.
Nov. 10 — "Sounds from the undergrowth: what your neighborhood insects are talking about" by Jen Hamel, assistant professor of Biology at Elon University

Dec. 8 — "Introduction to coal ash" by Kim Hutchinson, senior engineer for Duke Energy

Throwing back for Homecoming

'The Summer Set,' 'Throwback Time Machine' perform at Elon

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor

Students wearing glow stick necklaces and crowns holding flashing foam wands gathered to see "The Summer Set" and "Throwback Time Machine" for Elon University's Homecoming concert in the Colonnades parking lot Saturday night.

The concert, sponsored by the Student Union Board (SUB) and SGA, was successful despite a time crunch — original headliner Andy Grammer canceled to focus on his appearance on the 21st season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Luckily, SUB and SGA booked "Throwback Time Machine," a throwback video dance party for the show complete with a retro DJ. "I think SUB did the best they could replacing Andy Grammer in what little time they had, and overall it was a really cool atmosphere even if there weren't a lot of people there," said sophomore Melissa Douglas.

According to senior Caroline Blanchard, performance chair, members of the SUB executive board first saw "Throwback Time Machine" DJing and performing during one of the sessions at the National Association of Campus Activities South Regional Conference.

"They were incredibly high energy, really fun, really different and we thought they would be a great addition to 'The Summer Set' for the Homecoming concert," Blanchard said.

Doors opened at 7 p.m., and a few minutes after 8 p.m., "The Summer Set" opened the concert, performing some of their popular songs such as "Boomerang,"

"Lightning in a Bottle" and "Legendary" from their latest album "Legendary."

They even played a song from their fourth album, which will be released later this year.

Though "The Summer Set" wasn't as well-known on campus compared to previous Homecoming concert headliners such as Ludacris and Timeflies, students still enjoyed their performance.

"I was super pumped for The Summer Set," said junior Brooke Greenberg. "I actually found their album a few years ago and downloaded every song, which is very rare for me. I was definitely pleasantly surprised to find out they were coming because I didn't think anyone else really knew about them."

One group of fans chanted "Chelsea" repeatedly, asking for a song request.

Throughout the performance, lead singer Brian Logan Dales interacted with audience members, asking them if they had heard of the band before, telling them to put their arms around a stranger and catching the glow sticks thrown on stage.

"Since there weren't that many people there, my friends and I were able to get to the front and touch [Dales'] hand," Greenberg said. "It was super cool."

But more students poured in around 8:45 p.m., when "DJ Throwback Time Machine" took the stage and more glowing objects were thrown into the crowd. Unlike usual concerts, the DJ did not play any original songs, but rather played "throwbacks" going as far back to the 1970s.

During the performance, the DJ and students pushed "the big red button," which activated the



Students waved flashing foam wands and danced in glow stick necklaces during 'Throwback Time Machine's' set.

"Throwback Time Machine" and launched the crowd into a different decade complete with lyrics and music videos.

Almost everyone in the crowd knew the words to the popular throwbacks.

The audience danced and sang along to classics like "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey, "Sweet Child of Mine" by Guns N' Roses and "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynryd Skynyrd.

Students also showed off their moves by doing the "Cha Cha Slide" by DJ Casper, "Teach Me How to Dougie" by Cali Swag District and "Watch Me" by Silento.

There were also some more current songs considered "throwbacks from yesterday," like "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars, "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift and "679" by Fetty Wap.

The night ended with the DJ "calculating" what songs matched the crowd best from earlier reac-



Pop rock band 'The Summer Set' opened for the 2015 Homecoming concert.

tions, then playing the dubstep songs "Animals" by Martin Garrix and "Sandstorm" by Darude.

"The DJ was amazing," said junior Will Oglesby. "Horrible name,

but he was actually really fun. His throwback songs were actually really awesome. Plus, he was really awkward looking with a fedora, so that just added to the experience."

Classic 'Oklahoma!' hits Elon

Alexandra Schonfeld
Senior Reporter

During the last days of rehearsal for Elon University's fall musical "Oklahoma!," senior Drew Shafranek, who plays the lead Curly, sang from the front row while the rest of the cast performed on stage. With a

sprained ankle, it was the only way he could practice.

But despite Shafranek's injury, Director and Professor of Performing Arts Catherine McNeela believes there will be no need for an understudy.

"We have great hope that he will be fine in a couple days," she said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning "Oklahoma!," written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, runs Oct. 22-24 and Oct. 29-31 in McCrary Theatre.

The show is set in 1906 in an Oklahoma territory and tells the story of local rivalries between farmers and cowboys as well as the love story between the charming cowboy Curly and headstrong farm girl Laurey.

Directed by McNeela and choreographed by Lynne Formato, associate professor of dance, the show also features various members of Elon's musical theater department.

The cast has been rehearsing since the second Sunday of the school year, with auditions held the first day students were back on campus.

In addition to the robust cast of Elon students, the show also features four children in the ensemble, the youngest in second grade. Sophomore Megan Flynn, assistant choreographer and swing, meaning she plays multiple roles in the ensemble, said the show's ensemble is part of what makes this production great.

"Everyone is very involved with what's going on even if they're not a principle or leading role," she said.

In many productions, it is easy to only

focus on the protagonists as the driving forces of a show, but "Oklahoma!" is filled with supporting parts.

"You will see each one of the ensemble people has a full life history on stage, and that is everything when you're watching a production on stage," McNeela said.

Though "Oklahoma!" is a classic — it originally opened in 1943 — McNeela said this production will bring hope and heart to the community.

"For people who have seen 'Oklahoma!' before, who might think it's an old-fashioned musical — it actually has a lot to say," she said. "Everybody can relate to it."

According to McNeela, the first 20 minutes of the show feature three "show-stopping" moments, opening with the classic song "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" sung by Curly.

The whole cast and crew are eagerly awaiting opening night. Assistant Director and sophomore Chloe Robin said it will be amazing to watch the show finally come together with an audience watching, as it brings a new life to the performance.

"I'm excited to sit next to Chloe in the audience and watch it all come together and hearing the audience respond to these wonderful people," McNeela said.



Students and community members rehearse for the classic fall musical 'Oklahoma!.'

Elon's resident queen of comedy: Rebecca Hurd

Ally Feinsot
Senior Reporter

At Flappers Comedy Club in Burbank, California, an Elon University student took the stage.

"I was fat as a child, guys," she said to the audience.



Rebecca Hurd

The following five-minute set was sharp, witty and outrageously funny. She is a natural, with an air of Amy Schumer and a fast-paced routine that includes stories about going to the doctor as an overweight child and her

experience at Festivus.

She is a comedy queen in the making. She is senior Rebecca Hurd.

Laughing through life

Hurd is an acting and cinema and television arts double major with a passion for comedy and improv. But growing up, she didn't realize she had a knack for comedy.

Hurd was involved with theater in high school, but it wasn't until she got into both "Elon Tonight," a sketch comedy show, and Instant Laughter, an improv troupe, her freshman year that she revealed her sense of humor.

"I auditioned for both on a whim, and when I got in it gave me this affirmation of, 'Oh wow, maybe I can do comedy,'" Hurd said. "It totally changed my path and now this is what I want to do."

Last year, Hurd wrote her first sketch for "Elon Tonight," called "Troll Booth," where she played a troll who worked at a toll booth. It was her first experience writing for sketch comedy, and she said it was amazing to see an idea go from conceptualization to shooting and then making a tangible product.

Senior Matt Lee, executive producer for "Elon Tonight," has worked with Hurd on numerous sketches and referred to her as the "Amy Poehler of Elon."

"Working with Rebecca is always fun because you are challenged to get on her level," Lee said. "No matter what you do with her, you will create something entertaining for everyone."

Hurd recently approached Lee for a sketch about creating a music video parody about pumpkin spice, which now has more than 4,000 views on YouTube.

"Rebecca wrote, produced, directed and starred in the video," Lee said. "Elon Tonight would not be where it is today without her performances and creative ideas."



Rebecca Hurd starred in the fall play 'Harper Regan' as the title character, a contrast to her normal comedy in 'Elon Tonight.'

In summer 2014, Hurd went to Chicago for the first time and took a two-week summer intensive program at Second City, an improv comedy theater whose former students include Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Steve Carell.

She took improv and sketch writing classes and began coming up with the idea of "Troll Booth" there. The classes gave her the baseline skills for sketch writing and instilled confidence in her that she was able to bring back for writing and performing at Elon.

Classes at Second City gave Hurd the push to pursue comedy in Chicago after she graduates Elon in the spring.

"I hope to move there and take lots of comedy and improv classes, start auditioning and try to get representation for myself," Hurd said.

After building her credentials in Chicago, Hurd hopes to move to Los Angeles, where there are more than 200 Elon alumni to make connections with.

Keeping modest

Though Hurd has big dreams, she speaks modestly of her achievements and involvement, which Lee said is in her nature.

"Rebecca is a caring and humble person, and she doesn't let her success define her," he said. "She is loyal to her friends and is always there to help when needed."

Female comedians have been breaking the glass ceiling of comedy from as early as Joan Rivers to modern-day Amy Schumer. When Hurd was in LA this summer for the Elon in LA program, she performed stand-up at Flappers Comedy Club in Burbank, and was the only female comedian there that the night, opening for two professional male comedians.

It took her a month and a half to convince herself to audition for an open-mic night, but she eventually took the plunge and was booked for a Friday night. She was moved up to the main room, performing a five-minute set.

Hurd first tried stand-up last spring in Irazu Coffee Shop, performing with alumnus Powell Mansfield '15. To plan her routine, she explained that she pulled from a running note she keeps on her phone for whenever she finds inspiration for a character, a joke or hears something funny — a habit she has had since high school.

"When it came to do the show with Powell, I went through all my notes and put everything on paper to see what material I was working with," Hurd said. "I started to try and draw connections between them and create a kind of arc."

She said another technique for creating a stand-up routine is to find something that annoys, irks or intrigues you, and then expand upon that point.

While in LA, Hurd had two internships, one as a casting assistant with Michael Donovan Casting and another with a talent agency. She particularly enjoyed her casting internship because of the hands-on experience.

"It was a lot of interaction with actors and talking with casting directors about what they look for in an actor and helping run auditions," she said.

Adding some drama

In addition to taking acting class and juggling two internships, Hurd worked on student films with her friends in the Elon in LA program, including starring in "S P A C E S," a short, student film about the relationship between two siblings.

The film was submitted to several festivals, including SPARKcon, an art and design festival in Raleigh. It was accepted into the festival and was presented in September.

"All of us who worked on the film are friends, so it was such a great process, and the product is awesome," Hurd said. "It is my most proud thing that I have on my reel."

Hurd's most recent performance was in Elon's fall play, "Harper Regan," where she played the title character, a complex and emotional woman dealing with inner demons.

Hurd said she feels lucky to have had the opportunity to graduate with a lead role, something not everyone in the acting program can accomplish, despite the immense talent of her peers.

Portraying Harper allowed Hurd to hone her craft as an actor and gave her confidence about being cast in future dramatic roles, compared to the comedy she is more comfortable with.

"The fact that I could be seen as someone who is serious and dramatic is something that I have never been seen as before," Hurd said. "Comedy is primarily what I want to do and where I want to start, but I would love to pursue more serious material."

Hurd has come full-circle, as her start as an acting major was not what she had hoped.

Traditionally, the audition process for Elon's acting program begins senior year of high school. Hurd auditioned, but was rejected. She came to Elon nonetheless and auditioned again for the program her freshman year, but was denied again.

"I was upset because I was trying to find how I could be happy at Elon, especially because acting was something that I wanted to do," Hurd said.

But toward the end of her freshman year, she received a phone call from Fred Rubeck, the head of the department of performing arts, and got the opportunity to become a part of the acting program.

"It has been a really cool journey to know that I was rejected twice and then I got the lead of Harper my senior year," she said. "It's a good lesson that when one door closes, another opens."

“NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO WITH HER, YOU WILL CREATE SOMETHING ENTERTAINING FOR EVERYONE.”

MATT LEE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF ELON TONIGHT



While at Elon in LA, senior Rebecca Hurd performed standup comedy at Flappers Comedy Club.

Students swap leisure for service learning

Lasting memories, friendships formed on alternative breaks

Danielle Deavens
Senior Reporter

For some Elon University students, fall break is a time to go home, visit friends at other schools or stay on campus to catch up on sleep and binge watch a series on Netflix. But for others, break is an opportunity for an adventure through service learning and community engagement.

The Alternative Breaks Program through Elon's Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement takes students to places they might never go otherwise.

"Alternative breaks are based on social issues identified by the local community partner: rural education, affordable housing, disaster relief," said Evan Small, assistant director for the Kernodle Center for Student Programs. "During the program, participants work alongside local community members and engage in a variety of service projects."

Each program is led and facilitated by students, though two advisers are required to accompany each group. Both advisers and student leaders are selected by the Kernodle Center and come from a range of disciplines and professional backgrounds, but all have a passion for service.

"Alternative breaks coordinators are hired based on interest in service and potential for leadership and facilitation skills," Small said. "Advisers serve to help manage risk and assist the student leaders. Faculty members apply to be advisers and are interviewed and selected by the student coordinators."

Sophomore Ashley Alexander led a group of students on the Community Development program in Asheville during fall break. The students partnered with ArtSpace Charter School, doing grounds work and lending a hand to teachers in a range of capacities.

ArtSpace integrates visual and performing arts with a complete curriculum, emphasizing experi-

ential learning. Much like Elon's Kernodle Center, ArtSpace promotes a culture of community service to highlight the importance of responsible citizenship.

"ArtSpace was really amazing with their arts-integrated curriculum, and the students seemed to be excelling in their lessons," Alexander said. "I really enjoyed bonding with my peers and the advisers that also participated in the program."

Choosing the trip

Because of the length of fall break, most alternative break programs during that time run for just under four days, but that doesn't stop students from having a rewarding experience.

This year, those who applied for alternative breaks had three programs to choose from in addition to the partnership with ArtSpace Charter School: Environmental Issues in Turtle Island, Education Disparities in Eastern North Carolina and Community Engagement in Burlington.

Students who went to Turtle Island participated in a program that addressed the environmental issues the area faces. At Turtle Island, an area in Boone, North Carolina, students volunteered with a nature preserve, learning about how Turtle Island's residents live.

In Eastern North Carolina, students worked to build capacity, promote health and increase access to education with the state's largest Native American tribe, the Lumbee Tribe.

A fourth group stayed close to campus, exploring local community engagement opportunities in efforts to strengthen the relationship between the campus and Alamance County.

Sophomore Ginna Royalty was a co-facilitator for the program in Turtle Island.

"The man who owns it has lived there for over 30 years, and he has built every building on the 1,000-acre property," Royalty said. "The kitchen is completely open with



A group of Elon students went to Turtle Island and volunteered with a nature preserve during fall break.

wood stoves. It is completely sustainable and is a way to learn more about the environment and how our ancestors used to live."

Senior Becca Davies also traveled to Turtle Island this fall break for the environmental awareness program. She said her experience was "incredible."

"The program is centered around appreciation for the natural environment and everything it gives to us, and the ability to utilize nature to survive," Davies said.

The group had no access to electricity, electronics or plumbing. They slept in a shelter, but had no heat, an amenity that may have been useful on a chilly October night. According to Davies, though, being deprived of this amenity altered her outlook and made the program more rewarding.

"The experience humbles you, makes you think about all the things we take for granted in the modern world," she said. "We used everything we had in order to function, and nothing was ever wasted. Everything had a purpose. It was a remarkable adventure, and it has forever changed my perception of the modern world."

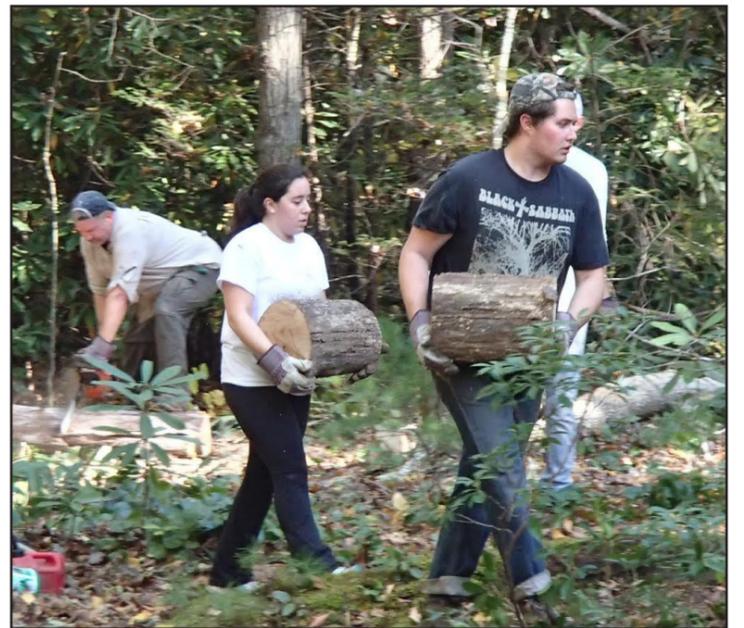
Alexander expressed a similar humbling change from her experience. In addition to facilitating this year's program in Asheville, Alexander traveled to Treasure Island in Jamaica on an alternative break program for spring break last semester.

"Alternative breaks are an incredible opportunity that not everyone, everywhere has a chance to participate in," she said. "It is a great way to make friends and escape that Elon bubble that we all talk about, and to connect with people on a different level. The experience itself is really difficult to convey through words, so I would just say to go ahead and go on one."

Applying for break

Participation in alternative break programs requires an application through the Kernodle Center. The form asks for basic demographic information in addition to a few open questions about the applicants' interest in the program and their history with service.

The deadlines have passed for Thanksgiving and fake break pro-



Students carried logs to be split for firewood while at Turtle Island.

grams but are still open for spring break programs. Though some may be considering tropical getaways or a week of home-cooked food, the opportunities for programs during spring break are diverse and include an element of adventure.

Students who travel to Florida for the Immigrant and Refugees program will learn about the immigrant and refugee population there and volunteer with agencies that help those groups.

Those participating in Housing Rehabilitation & Disaster Relief in New Orleans will partner with Youth Rebuilding New Orleans to repair and rebuild areas still suffering in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. A video of students on the program in January 2013 is available on the Kernodle Center website.

In the Appalachian Mountain area of Kentucky, students will have the opportunity to work with communities struggling with mountaintop removal for the Environmental Sustainability program.

In South Dakota for the Native American Issues program, students will partner with Re-Member, learning about Lakota culture through various experiences such as building, cooking and painting.

For Urban Education, students in California will tutor at the Boys & Girls Club Head Start facility, seeing firsthand the importance of early childhood education.

If students are looking to get out of the country, programs in Jamaica, Nicaragua and Costa Rica

are available. The Kernodle Center is offering the Treasure Beach program once again in Jamaica for Rural Education and Poverty. In Nicaragua, students will see through the construction of a home for one impoverished family from start to finish. Students will work in Costa Rica at an organic farm to learn about sustainable agriculture for Community Development and Agriculture.

The cost of alternative break runs no more than \$800 for domestic programs and no more than \$1,500 for international programs. This price tag includes airfare, food and program costs, so students only need to bring money if they plan to buy souvenirs or items not included in the itinerary.

For a price similar to an all-inclusive cruise or a vacation on an island, students can deepen their awareness of sustainability, access, under-represented communities or disaster relief.

This, in addition to fast but lasting friendships, makes alternative breaks a change of pace from the bikinis and barhopping that have become synonymous with college spring break. Royalty found this to be true for her experiences.

"Alternative breaks provide a time to see and do things you normally wouldn't get to do," she said. "I definitely recommend doing some sort of alternative break program during your time at Elon, just because it will really make you think and reflect about the privileged life that we live."

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Food Insecurity (Atlanta, GA) (closed/filled)

FAKE BREAK 2016

Hunger and Homelessness (Washington, D.C.) (closed/filled)

SPRING BREAK 2016

- Immigrants and Refugees (Florida)
- Housing Rehabilitation & Disaster Relief (New Orleans, LA)
- Native American Issues (South Dakota)
- Urban Education (California)
- Environmental Sustainability (Kentucky)
- Rural Education & Poverty (Jamaica)
- Affordable Housing (Nicaragua)
- Community Development and Agriculture (Costa Rica)

Men's soccer finding a balance in its midfield

Seniors Alvarez, Salazar preparing freshman Berkane for future

Jordan Spritzer
Assistant Sports Editor

When Elon University men's soccer head coach Chris Little is creating his starting lineup, he's looking for balance.

"Our system isn't really set up just for one player to be the guy scoring goals," Little said. "Maybe

that was the case in the past, but we've tried to get away from that."

Eleven of the 19 who have played for the Phoenix this year have scored at least one goal. Even redshirt freshman goalkeeper Mathew Jegier has an assist to his name.

The balance Little has found the most consistency in revolves around the midfield, where seniors Eduardo Alvarez and Miguel Salazar are preparing freshman Amir Berkane to take over once they graduate.

Set piece specialist

Few expected Alvarez to be tied for the team-lead in goals at five. The holding midfielder scored a long range goal against DePaul University Aug. 28. Alvarez also scored a free kick in Elon's 3-1 loss to the University of South Carolina and delivered the corner kick that senior defender Nathan Diehl scored on in Elon's victory over James Madison University Oct. 17.

"That's something I grew up with," Alvarez said. "I've always been a penalty taker and free kick taker. It's just something I like to do and I think the coach knows that."

In addition to his offensive skills, Alvarez's defensive duties have equal impact, as seen in Elon's 2-1 road victory over the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Oct. 14. Little had given Alvarez a break by not starting him in the match or the prior one against Lipscomb University, and Little said Alvarez looked a lot fresher in leading the team to a victory.



Senior midfielder Miguel Salazar dribbles up the field against James Madison University Oct. 17.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

"There were 20-odd minutes left and we were winning two goals to one, and I thought we managed that 20 minutes really well," Little said. "I don't really remember Wilmington having a good shot on goal."

Connecting through a different language

Alvarez transferred to Elon for his junior year from Louisburg College. He said it was Salazar that helped him transition to the new team.

"I think him knowing Spanish and being able to communicate better with him in Spanish really helped," Salazar said.

Alvarez hails from Reitoca, Honduras, while Salazar calls Guanajuato, Mexico, his hometown. The two had a chance to spend a lot of bonding time together this past summer.

"There were not a lot of people here in the summer," Salazar said. "So we hung out a lot and it was a really good time."

Salazar occupies the other holding midfield position in Little's system. He said having not just a teammate, but a friend lining up next to him every match makes the chemistry easy.

"We both have really similar qualities," Salazar said. "We both like to attack and defend, so we're very similar in that aspect. The im-

portant thing here is to keep a balance in the team. We can't just push both of us forward and we just can't both stay and defend."

On the field, the playing style of the two midfielders may almost be too similar.

"A lot of people also confuse us on the field, which is funny, but we all just take it as a joke," Salazar said. "That just helps the camaraderie of the team."

Waiting in the wings

Freshman midfielder Berkane started in place of Alvarez in the Lipscomb and Wilmington matches. Berkane excelled in deputy duty in the heart of Elon's midfield and was named the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) rookie of the week Oct. 12.

The Ipswich Town Academy graduate scored the winning goal just over six minutes after entering the match as a substitute. Berkane then assisted the lone goal in the victory over Lipscomb.

Little said he's been trying to steadily increase the minutes of the new players such as Berkane. He expects Berkane to only improve playing in his natural defensive midfield position.

"That's his position, he's comfortable in there and what's good about him is you could see from his two goals that he could get forward," Little said. "What's been tough for him and some of the other guys is we've got a lot of good competition. There are some really good senior players ahead of him."

Little said it's difficult to drop senior players like Alvarez, but insists experienced players are the ones who make up the core of the team.

"We're very lucky to have some senior leadership through the spine of the team in key areas," he said.

Little will continue to tweak his lineup looking for the balance between attack and defense, as well as between youth and experience. While Berkane may fall under the category of youth, he'll soon be called on to show his abilities.

"There's no bones about it," Little said. "We recruited [Berkane] to replace Miguel and Eduardo."



Senior midfielder Eduardo Alvarez shields the ball away from a defender in a 2-1 win over James Madison Oct. 17.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

Thursday, Oct. 22

Women's tennis |
ITA Carolina Regionals

Women's golf |
The Landfall Tradition

Friday, Oct. 23

Women's tennis |
ITA Carolina Regionals

Women's golf |
The Landfall Tradition

Men's tennis @
NC State Invitational

Volleyball @
Towson | 7 p.m.

Women's soccer @
James Madison | 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Women's tennis |
ITA Carolina Regionals

Women's golf |
The Landfall Tradition

Men's tennis @
NC State Invitational

Men's soccer @
Hofstra | 7 p.m.

Volleyball @
James Madison | 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25

Women's tennis |
ITA Carolina Regionals

Women's golf |
The Landfall Tradition

Men's tennis @
NC State Invitational

Women's soccer @
Towson | 1 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26

Women's tennis |
ITA Carolina Regionals

Volleyball seeking ways to improve in every game

Rough first half of season gives young players chance to shine

Kyle Lubinsky
Senior Reporter

More than half the way through its second season as a member of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the Elon University volleyball team is 4-17. The Phoenix is struggling in what has been a rebuilding year after adding six new players — five of whom are freshmen. The team won its first conference match on Oct. 17 at the College of William & Mary.

Head coach Mary Tendler believes that as the Phoenix learns to work together as a cohesive unit, the wins will follow.

“We looked really confident [in the Oct. 8 match against the College of Charleston] in all situations,” Tendler said. “When you’re confident, you’re going to play well, and that showed. When we’re like that, we’re a tough team to beat.”

When the Phoenix has played with confidence this season, it has won sets and matches convincingly. In a 3-0 home sweep of its former Southern Conference rival, Davidson College, Elon’s confidence was on full display. The Phoenix showed determination, battling back from a six-point deficit in the first set, and winning sets two and three without losing the lead once.

That sense of confidence has also bred teamwork for the Phoenix. In the sweep of the Wildcats, Elon had a different leader in every major offensive and defensive statistic, which is to say that no player led the team in more than one statistical category.

For Elon, being confident also means getting young, impactful players on the court early in the season. Tendler has certainly made use of her new additions. Freshman defensive specialist Maddie Jaudon leads the team in digs with 293, averaging just under four digs per set. Transfer junior outside hitter Ebony Scott is fourth on the team in kills with 100 so far. Freshman Kam Terry is fifth, with 92. Terry’s breakout game came against College of Charleston, where she led the match with 18 kills.

There is trust building between older and younger players on the court as Elon builds for the future. Terry’s breakout performance was supplemented with certainty from more experienced teammates that she was capable of playing at a high level.

“We had complete confidence in Kam whenever she got set the ball,” senior outside hitter Megan Gravley said. “When I would be back row, I would be like, ‘oh, she’s got it. She’s got a kill.’ It was a really neat thing to be able to rely on a freshman like that.”

Terry and Jaudon are not the only two Phoenix freshmen making strides to improve — Tendler has noticed it in all five of her young players, making competition better between teammates during practice.

“What they’re doing in practice, they’re getting better everyday, and it’s not just Kam and Maddie,” she said. “It’s the other three freshmen as well, and their opportunities will come. They’re going to be ready. All five of them work really hard as a group, and it makes our scrimmages really competitive.”

There have been other flashes of brilliance from the Phoenix this season. In the Sept. 27 3-2 loss to Hofstra University, Elon again spread the wealth, with a different leader in every statistical category. The Pride was last year’s CAA Tournament champion, making it to the NCAA Tournament. It was the first time the Phoenix really competed with Hofstra — a 3-1 loss at home and a 3-0 loss on the road to the Pride last season left little hope.

The Phoenix has had its issues on the court this season, though. The most glaring issues stem from an inability to win away from Alumni Gym — through seven road matches this season, Elon has just one win, coming in its last match against William & Mary. With upcoming road matches against CAA opponents Towson University and the University of Delaware, the Phoenix must find a way to earn victories outside its home gym.



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

The Elon University volleyball team celebrates a point against the University of Delaware Oct. 10.

The Phoenix must also find a formula to win conference games. During its tenure in the CAA, Elon has totaled just two victories in conference play. Both wins have come against William & Mary, on Oct. 31, 2014 and this past Saturday.

Communication has been an issue for the Phoenix at times this season. When the team is performing poorly, they are usually struggling to interact on the court.

Slow starts have also been a headache for the Phoenix offense. Against Loyola University-Chicago earlier this season, Elon was unable to generate any momentum in the first two sets, falling 25-13 and 25-20.

By the time the Phoenix was able to win the third set, Loyola was only one set from a victory, winning the match in four sets, 3-1.

“Sometimes it takes a little bit for us to get warmed up mentally,” Gravley said. “Just starting that out from the first point on is going to be important.”

Although the season has not gone as intended for the Phoenix, the team still believes it will improve as time goes on.

“Yes, we’ve struggled going into the CAA, but it’s a part of sports,” Gravley said. “It’s part of the game. You just have to roll with it, and improve from it, and go from there.”

Football grinding to get ground game going

‘Decent’ first-half rushing vs. JMU has Skrosky hopeful

Wesley Share
Senior Reporter

Heading into last Saturday’s matchup against Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) opponent James Madison University, the Elon University football team had picked up just 454 yards on the ground on 183 rushing attempts, good for a measly 2.5 yards per carry.

With a rushing offense ranked 119 of 123 Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) teams, head coach Rich Skrosky said to this week that getting the ground game going was a top priority for the team going forward.

Even after the Dukes ran over Elon to the tune of a 51-0 shellacking, Skrosky was still able to find some positives to pull from Elon’s ground attack.

“I think early on we did some decent things in the run game,” Skrosky said following the defeat. “[Junior running back] B.J. [Bennett], who was our primary runner, [had] nine [rushes] for 38 [yards], so he’s over four yards [per carry], he had a couple zone

reads. Looked like [freshman running back] Malcolm [Summers] ran the ball fairly hard again.”

Early in the game, when the contest was still within a couple possessions, the Phoenix offense was able to string together some semi-productive drives. The best quarter rushing was the second, when Elon carried the ball seven times for 47 yards (6.7 yards per carry). Bennett broke off the longest run of the day when he found a hole in the trenches and let loose for 19 yards.

Once the score became more lopsided in James Madison’s favor, handing the ball to a running back became counterproductive for Elon, as running the ball takes time off the clock.

“You know, when the score gets to where it got,” Skrosky said, “It’s got to be close, it’s got to help your play action and all those things.”

The offensive line, which features three freshmen, isn’t doing the Phoenix’s three-headed running attack any favors. The abundance of young players on offense is keeping Skrosky and the team realistic.



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Freshman quarterback Daniel Thompson (11) runs the ball against James Madison University Oct. 17. Elon lost 51-0.

“I said this to the team at half-time: You try to keep things in perspective,” Skrosky said. “We talk a lot about how do you refocus, how do you regroup. We just have to be able to execute over a

period of time.”

With a bye week ahead of the Halloween matchup against Stony Brook University, Elon plans to focus on fixing the problems with running the football.

Skrosky is acutely aware of the fact that his team desperately needs another dimension offensively. The last four games will give them a chance to see it play out on the field.

What's in a set piece?

Women's soccer team using chances to its advantage

Nathan Smith
Senior Reporter

It's a pretty common occurrence in a soccer match. Someone might get fouled, or the ball might get kicked out of bounds, resulting in a corner kick. Players begin milling about, trying to get in the right position so that when the ball is kicked, they can do their best to put the ball in the back of the net.

It's called a set piece, and it's something the Elon University women's soccer team knows a thing or two about.

"We have a lot of kids that can strike a ball very well, and in the set piece equation, the first step is being able to strike a ball well, you know, putting the ball where it needs to be," said head coach Chris Neal. "There are so many variables involved in all the different types of set pieces. You've got short free kicks, long free kicks, corner kicks ... each set piece is uniquely different depending on the distance, the angle and where the defenders are standing."

The difficulty of scoring off a set piece is one that is often taken for granted in the game of soccer, most likely because it's so common.

"More than 30 percent of most goals in most leagues are scored on set pieces, so we have to devote a large amount of our time to it," Neal said. "To not spend that amount of time on training would be naive."

Set pieces a clear option

The set piece has been one of the most effective ways for the Phoenix to score this season. Of the 25 goals the team has scored, eight were directly off a free kick or corner kick, right around the 30 percent mark. That doesn't even include the "second and third-phase" goals Neal pointed out, goals that don't come directly off a set piece but occur as a continuation of a set piece.

Four of those goals have come off free kicks from sophomore defender Amanda Lasater, who is tied for the team lead with three assists. The other four have come from free kicks, including three goals from senior defender Mel Insley (the fourth was a goal by sophomore defender Kendall Ballotti off a free kick from Insley).

"I think a big thing for us, especially going into this year, was knowing that we really had to take advantage of the opportunities that we get on set pieces because they are extremely important and put us in a great position to score," Insley said. "We put a lot of emphasis on just timing the services in, timing the runs and making sure everything is on frame in order to give everyone the best possible position to score."

Insley has been much more prevalent in Elon's set piece equation this season in contrast to last.

Her only goal last season came off a free kick in the season opener, a moment where she began to see what the coaches had been telling her all along.

"The coaches have really helped me in practice and in games, knowing where I need to place the ball because of the way I hit the ball," Insley said. "The coaches have taken what they've seen from me and really helped me in order to execute the kick a lot better."

A plethora of moving parts

Players looking only at the ball when it's kicked miss out on all the moving parts that go into a successful set piece.

"If I'm the one responsible for taking it, I realize that the main priority is getting it on frame," Insley said. "If it's not on frame, there's no way of scoring for either myself or a teammate of mine, so that's the biggest priority in setting up for a free kick."

Neal also stressed that knowing the value of the opportunity a set piece represents has played a huge role in the amount of set piece goals.

"They know that they're good at [set pieces]," Neal said. "And they know it's a great opportunity for them to win the game."

More than just a kick

The other point that many tend to forget is that a set piece requires more than the kick.

"It's a combination of service, intelligent runs, and then there's the variable of everybody doing their job," Neal said. "There are some people who aren't there to serve it, some people that aren't there to initially assess that first ball, but there are people there who are sort of our scavengers that are sort of there to pick up the pieces and they have to be in the right places."

For Insley, delivering a good ball is pointless if her teammates are not able to get to it.

"If the ball gets where it needs to be but there's no runners there, then it's a worthless free kick in the same sense as if the ball doesn't get there but the runners do," Insley said. "On both sides of it, everyone needs to be perfect and know what their role is and know what to do in order to score."

The biggest element of a free kick, according to Insley, is trust.

"It's really important that each of us trusts everyone else that's on the field at that time, and everyone knows what their role is off set pieces," she said. "When that happens, even if it's not the best ball in, we have to trust that our teammates will do everything they can in order to re-direct that ball into an area that will be more dangerous and have a better likelihood of getting on goal."

"It's a lot of trust, really, at the end of the day."



Senior defender Mel Insley (4) strikes a free kick against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Oct. 9. JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer



Sophomore forward Grace Bennett (17) leaps for a header off of a free kick against College of Charleston Oct. 11. JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer



Sophomore forward Susannah Anderson celebrates a goal from a corner kick Oct. 11. Elon won 2-0. JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

Junior point guard climbing back to full strength

Eddy hopes right ACL is fully healed in time for tipoff next month

Wesley Share
Senior Reporter

On Dec. 20, Elon University men's basketball sophomore guard Luke Eddy tumbled to the ground of the Greensboro Coliseum with a torn ACL in his right knee.



Luke Eddy

Now, with the start of a new season just a month away, the junior is finally getting ready to play again.

"The rehab process was really long," Eddy said. "It took

eight and a half months, and I'm finally back out here."

Eddy got his first taste of full-contact, 5-on-5 action at Late Night With The Phoenix on Oct. 16, and admits he's still only back to about 85-percent strength. But he returned to what he does best in the brief intrasquad scrimmage, pushing the ball for transition baskets, stretching the defense thin with his outside stroke and slashing through the defense on high pick-and-rolls with Elon's revamped, mobile frontcourt.

The reigning Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Player of the Week was averaging 17.6 points per game in the five games preceding that matchup with University of North Carolina at Greensboro. It came at a bad time for Elon, which was two weeks away from starting CAA play.

After starting the year 10-6, a stretch of 11 losses in 12 games in CAA play put the nail in the coffin for their inaugural conference title hopes. The team lacked the punch on the offensive end that had been offsetting the underperforming defense.

The team capped off an otherwise unimpressive season with four wins in the last five contests though, which has left Eddy



Junior point guard Luke Eddy shoots a 3-pointer during Late Night With The Phoenix Oct. 16.

ASHLEY KING | Staff Photographer

with a far more positive outlook.

"My teammates are fighters," he said. "We were struggling last year, but as coach said, we won four out of our last five. We're going to build off that. The team chemistry's at an all-time high [this year]."

Before his injury, Eddy was the team's catalyst for productive offense — his offensive rating of 123.3 points per 100 possessions in the 11 games he played would have finished second in the CAA if he kept the

performance going throughout the season.

Eddy's injury freed up playing time for former freshman guard Elijah Bryant, who transferred to Brigham Young University in July. Bryant stuffed stat sheets and dazzled crowds with a quick first step to the rim and high-volume shooting, but Bryant was really picking up the slack for an action-oriented offensive system — one needing a plethora of ball movement and up-tempo possessions.

Statistically, Bryant posted the fourth-highest usage rate in all of Division I basketball last season, using 34.6 percent of the team's possessions. He turned the ball over 3.5 times per game and took 11.7 shots per game, finishing with a 38.2 shooting percentage.

Despite the hit Elon took after losing Eddy, the offense still finished 29th in the NCAA in adjusted tempo last season, per Ken Pomeroy's College Basketball Ratings. Bryant's sky-high usage rate was mostly a testament to the ailing offense, but nonetheless, Eddy agrees the team needs to not only return to playing up-tempo but ramp up its credibility.

"We're running — every day in practice, we're just running," Eddy said. "It's a 30-second shot clock, so now we're running even faster."

Head coach Matt Matheny has indicated that he does not want to rush Eddy back making sure he's completely healthy before playing Eddy.

But don't tell that to the point guard. He plans to play in the season-opening exhibition Nov. 5, even if he's limited.

"Minute restrictions are a good possibility [early on]," Eddy said. "But if the game's close, I'm gonna play."

Regardless of how many minutes he may see right off the bat, his return to the floor means a return to the brand of basketball that head coach Matt Matheny employs best.

The roster has some newfound depth with the addition of three freshman guards, including Ardrey Kell High School star Steven Santa Ana, and the return of junior forward Brian Dawkins, who was held out all of last season by knee ailments.

Most importantly, the return of the team's identity — easily distinguishable with Eddy playing as the point guard — has brought about a newfound sense of optimism that radiates throughout Alumni Gym.

Dennion returns for Elon women's soccer Senior Day

Former SoCon Player of the Year, cancer survivor makes emotional return

Alex Simon
Sports Editor

Emotions always run high on a Senior Day, but they were cranked up an extra notch at the Oct. 11 Elon University women's soccer team's match.



Nicole Dennion

Senior forward Nicole Dennion, former Southern Conference Player of the Year who missed last year while battling cancer, made her first appearance in two years by taking the opening

kickoff in the lineup for the Phoenix. After kicking off the match, she ran to the sideline for a substitute as both teams and fans applauded.

"An indescribable level [of emotion]," said head coach Chris Neal. "It was really good having her here."

For Dennion, going out for the kickoff with her senior classmates and best friends defenders Mel Insley and Katie Boyle had her nearly in tears after Elon's 2-0 victory over the College of Charleston.

"I'm just incredibly grateful to put on my No. 22 jersey and do the ceremonial kickoff with my two best friends next to me," Dennion said. "It was the greatest feeling."

The 2013 SoCon Player of the Year was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma — bone cancer — in February 2014, so she moved back home to Ewing, New Jersey. When she was deemed cancer-free later that calendar year, she returned to Elon's campus for the spring 2015 semester.

Though she had intentions of returning to the field, health complications prevented her from coming back to Elon's campus this semester. Dennion knew this was her last time stepping on the pitch and understood the gravity of the moment.

"Senior Day — coming here, seeing the field, seeing everyone in their uniform — it got emotional," she said. "It was definitely an emotional time. I think it has registered that this is the last time I'm stepping on the field."

Dennion had planned to come back to North Carolina for Senior Day, but she was unsure whether Neal would allow her on the field. The coach tells a different story.

"She's been telling us what she is going to do for years now," Neal said. "We had no choice. That was her saying, 'I'll be back, and I'll be on the field for Senior Day in some way, shape or form.' Nobody's going to tell her no."

Dennion has watched every match available online for the past two seasons, and Neal says her presence is still felt on the team.

"She's got free reign of this team — she



Senior forward Nicole Dennion participated in a ceremonial kickoff on Senior Day Oct. 11.

JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer

can do whatever she wants," he said. "She's the only player in the country that can put the fear of God into a group of underclassmen from 400 miles away. She gets what she wants."

Dennion was excited about attending Elon's two matches last weekend — Friday's match at the University of Delaware and Sunday's match at the Drexel Univer-

sity are both 45 minutes away from Dennion's home. Neal is glad, too. For him, there's no denying her influence on the team and those around her.

"Just by being who she is, and by being herself, and with her situation," Neal said. "If she doesn't provide life-changing inspiration, you may need to get your pulse checked."

TAILGATE from cover

tailgate there, and we would walk to the stadium.”

To many at the Homecoming tailgate Saturday, the parties at the old Oakley house were the place to be. In fact, the party carried on even after the Oakley parents moved out.

“We didn’t tell any of our fraternity brothers that my mom and dad moved,” Oakley said. “So the guy who bought the house woke up one day, and there’s 40-50 people showing up, walking in and out of the house.”

Joining forces

Even after the tailgates at the house stopped, the Oakley family tailgate continued, moving to campus with the football team after Rhodes Stadium was built.

With kickoffs at noon or 1 p.m., Oakley found himself arriving as early as 4 a.m. to properly prepare the food. There was only one other tailgate that typically arrived before sunrise: Cross, Martindale and Rich. The three knew each other because they worked together at Willis Re, an insurance company.

They claim it was Jonathan Miller, director of Phoenix Club, who got them to move into the Ingold Lot right next to Rhodes Stadium. Miller recalls that, at the time when the student tailgating setup was revamped, Athletic Director Dave Blank asked what they could do for non-students.

“At the time, there were some spots in the Ingold lot occupied by [President Leo Lambert]’s office,” Miller said. “The President’s office said, ‘Hey, if it would help you to use that lot for people who would tailgate, we would be happy to relocate those guest parking spots.’”

With the new parking spaces available, Miller and the athletic department staff selected people who tailgated regularly at Elon games, hoping to create a friendly, communal atmosphere in the lot.

“It started as a group of guys from two tailgates that didn’t know each other that well,” Miller said. “But now it’s one big sprawling tailgate. They are some of our best supporters, no question.”

Now that the group is together, they love to see what time the next group of tailgaters will arrive, setting a time and wagering whether the group will come before or after the set time.

“It doesn’t count if you come by to drop off tents without setting up,” Oakley clarified, with Martindale nodding along. “You have to pull in and stay for the long haul.”

The essentials for the tailgate

As noon approaches and ESPN’s College Gameday TV show moves on to the predictions for the day, David Rich ’87 sits down.

“Got to get off your feet for a little bit,” Rich says. “If you’re not careful, you’ll be standing from dawn until dusk, or later.”

The group has come to love late kickoffs, using the free time available with the late start to watch European soccer matches in the morning.

Rich and Martindale are huge soccer fans, and both are avid supporters of both the men’s and women’s soccer teams at Elon — men’s soccer head coach Chris Little even stopped by the tailgate around noon, bringing his two kids with him.

With more free time comes the favorite game cornhole, with one board sporting the Phoenix logo and the other the old Fightin’ Christians logo. The Oakley men combine to face Cross and Martindale, throwing bean bags and smack talk back and forth. On Homecoming Saturday, the Oakleys won the best-of-3 series, 2 games to 1.

As the tailgate picks up, the alcohol comes out, with specialty drinks an essential on their menu. Homecoming weekend’s specialty drinks were a cinnamon toast-flavored mixed drink and a mystery drink called “Painkillers,” which could have been put to better use during the football game itself (Elon lost to



Mike Cross (far left) and David Oakley '91 (second from left) begin serving food to hungry tailgaters Oct. 17.

James Madison University 51-0).

The student-family connection

For the entire group, the ability to connect on a personal level with the athletic staff, students and community members is the major reason they love Elon.

“Where else can you go tailgate and know a good part of the student body?” Oakley said. “Or a majority of the student-athletes, where they know you and are appreciative of you? We’re at a softball game, and the players turn around and speak to our children by name.”

“We’ve even had a shoutout from the announcer during a game,” Martindale said.

Martindale has one daughter, and 5-year-old Nancy was at the tailgate right at 7 a.m.

“This year’s home opener, my daughter came into my room at 3 a.m.,” Martindale said. “She goes, ‘Daddy, is it time to go tailgating?’ 30 minutes later, ‘Daddy, is it time to go yet?’”

Oakley’s son, 11-year-old David McKeever Oakley Jr., joined the tailgating crew as well, though Oakley noted their wives are “the smart ones” and didn’t arrive until much closer to kickoff.

Aiming for bigger and better

How does their tailgate get any better than it already is?

“Every year, it’s a challenge for us to add something new,” Oakley said. “We have a meeting in August about tailgate planning. We look at the times and the opponents and try to set a menu for the whole year.”

The four have tailgated a good number of the sports at Elon and plan on tailgating an event for athletic teams they haven’t supported yet soon. One sport they tried to tailgate, golf, got shut down because the country club would not allow them on the grounds — and they’re still bitter about it.

With the special Homecoming schedule of a football game at 3 p.m. and a men’s soccer match at

8 p.m., the group decided to attend both sporting events, setting up an extravagant but long day. Between the two events, many alumni of the men’s soccer programs swung by the tailgate to enjoy the abundance of food.

After both events ended with a 2-1 victory for men’s soccer, Rich and Martindale still hung around, basking in the afterglow of a needed victory. The clock turned to 11 p.m., signaling the beginning of the 17th hour of the tailgate.

With the long day finally wrapping up, Rich revealed the biggest plan yet.

“We want to have a 24-hour tailgate in the future,” he said. “Come out here around 10 p.m. Friday night, do all of the cooking and food preparation out here, and just hang out until after the football game at 10 p.m. Saturday night.”

At the rate they’re going, the @Elon7amTailgate crew may end up with a tailgate that never ends.

And they would probably love it that way.



David Oakley '91 (near left) throws a bean bag as Brian Martindale '95 (near right) waits for his turn Oct. 17.

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Top Photos



JACK HARTMANN | Staff Photographer
 True freshman wide receiver Corey Joyner (83) attempts to score against James Madison University Oct. 17. The Phoenix lost 51-0.



HALI TAUXE | Photo Editor
 The North Carolina State Fair opened Oct. 15 in Raleigh and continues until Oct. 26.



MEGAN KOTTKAMP | Staff Photographer
 Elon University students and alumni enjoy the Homecoming concert, which included performances by 'The Summer Set' and 'Throwback Time Machine.'



RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer
 The North Carolina Balloon Festival Oct. 15 - Oct. 18 in Statesville showcased more than 50 hot air balloons.



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