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Student leads fast-paced musical life

Leah Baker
Reporter

You think you're busy? Try returning home at 2 a.m. after a long day of classes, work and rehearsals. Wake up in time to get to Model at 7 a.m. in order to practice for an hour before heading to work in the mailroom.

Senior music major Kevin Pace not only tries, but also succeeds at this rigorous schedule on less than five hours of sleep a night. To top it off, he manages to remain calm and friendly through it all.

An electric and upright bass player, Pace has played at concerts, receptions, parties, restaurants, bars, weddings, festivals, and even a funeral. He has played in Burlington as well as in Greensboro and Winston-Salem. "Most of the time you have to create your own gigs," he said.

The Kevin Pace Quartet, named after him because he found the gig, played for the first time together Oct. 18 in the Zone. The quartet consisted of fellow Elon student Brad Linde (sax), with whom Pace often plays, and a guitar player and drummer. Pace met the drummer for the first time that night. "It was great," he said. "It's rare to have a group that meets for the first time and plays as a group, not as individuals."

Pace says he loves jazz so much because, "everyone knows the same set of standards." This enables groups to play in any style, key or tempo, just as long as they all know the tune. "The biggest part of jazz is using your ear," he said.

He frequently plays straight-ahead jazz, which he describes as acoustic, Bebop, Brazilian and Blues. "No Kenny G stuff," he jokes.

Pace, who is from Elon, started playing the electric bass in the jazz band at nearby Western Alamance High School. "I basically taught myself to play electric," he said. He was told the week before school began that he would be playing the electric bass in the jazz band. Previously, he had played the electric guitar. He taught himself to play the bass in a week.

Once at Elon, Pace learned to play the upright bass in order to join the jazz ensemble. He has now taken lessons for three years and, at some point during his Elon career, has performed with or accompanied orchestra, jazz ensemble, jazz combo, percussion ensemble, wind ensemble, camarata and chamber singers, string quintet, musicals and Grand Night for Singing. His resume includes every musical ensemble except marching band, brass quintet and sax quartet.

This summer Pace worked with the General Studies department and wrote music for



Jennifer Guarino/Managing Editor

Senior Kevin Pace manages to keep classes, work and his music in balance. He is performing in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" next week

the global studies CD. His music accompanied the global text, which was moved to CD this year.

Pace can also be seen playing in the upcoming Elan concert on Nov. 17 and at "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" from Nov. 7-11.

Music is an important part of Pace's life. He plans on auditioning for graduate schools and possibly cruise ships. "I plan on [music] being my life. I hope to make a living doing it."

His closing words for Elon: "Always support live jazz."

Do you know an out-
standing Elon student?
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