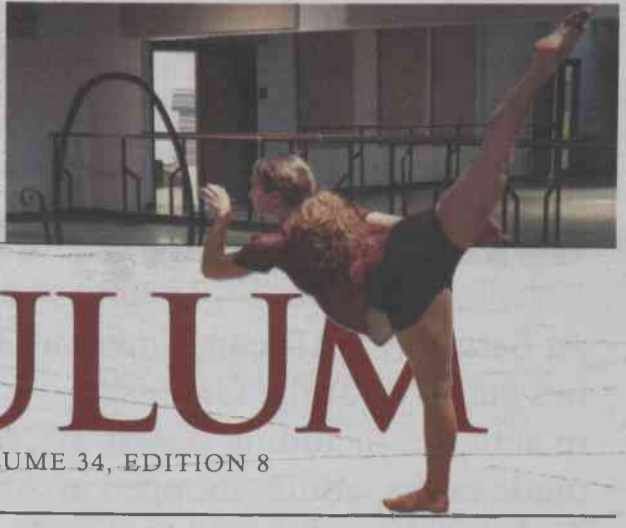




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Students choreograph performance for festival, Page 13



THE PENDULUM

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Tuition to top \$24,000 next year

Olivia Hubert-Allen and Bethany Swanson Executive Editors

The Elon University board of trustees has approved the 2008-2009 budget, which includes an 8.6 percent increase to tuition and fees and a 6.4 percent increase to room and board.

This brings the total for tuition and fees to \$24,076. Room and board for typical on-campus resident will increase to \$7,770.

The tuition increase helps to support a \$145.5 million budget that is expected to be used to hire 30 new faculty and staff members, and support new investments in instructional resources, financial aid, environmental sustainability, and campus safety and security.

In addition to the tuition hike, the university also plans to increase financial aid by 10.4 percent through "major new investments in the Honors and Fellows programs, need-based scholarships, and scholarships to attract top athletes and those with special talents in the performing arts," according to the announcement made by the university.

Part of the increase to financial aid includes the addition of the Lumen Prize, a \$15,000 scholarship that will be available to rising juniors.

Administrators say they hope to increase Elon's endowment so that they can rely less on tuition increases in the future.

The 2007-2008 cost for tuition and fees was \$22,166 and room and board was \$7,296.

March Sadness



The men's basketball team watches anxiously from the bench as the final minutes of the Southern Conference final tick down. MITCH PITTMAN | Photographer

Historic tournament run ends as quickly as it began

Justin Hite Reporter

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. - Senior guard Brian Waters could only hide his face beneath his jersey. Fighting back the tears of anguish or loss or completion, he was overcome by what would soon be an end to a career.

Sitting on the bench as the dying seconds ticked off of his final collegiate season, there was nothing Waters could do to salvage the Phoenix's Cinderella run that finally ended on a national ESPN2 stage with a 65-49 Southern Conference Championship loss to Davidson College on Monday night.

After three consecutive days with three consecutive wins, the Phoenix - the first team to make it to the final with a losing record since 1988 - finally ran out of whatever magic may have lifted them. Not since Virginia Military Institution, in 1988, had a team with such a low seed,

Elon was ranked No. 7, made it all the way to the finals.

"We came really far in the last four days and to win the first day and the second day and the third day and to fall short of your goal, it takes a toll on you" junior guard Brett James said.

Elon (14-19) seemed as if it was going to be able to hold on to the high-powered Wildcats (26-6). But by the end of the game, it was late timeouts, in a game that seemed defined by waves, which changed the ebb and flow of the game.

Even with the constant flow of the game, Elon seemed to stay in the game only as long as the Wildcats let them. Elon shot 35.2 percent from the field in comparison to Davidson's 45.5 percent.

"We knew it would take a great game from us to win the basketball game and on offense in particular we didn't shoot the ball well and it put us in a difficult

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THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

Elon beats Furman (52-37)
Elon set a new SoCon record for fewest field goals allowed. Brett James recorded a game-high 16 points and Ola Atoyebi nabbed a career best 10 rebounds.

Elon beats Chattanooga (60-57)
Seventh-seeded Elon upset second-seeded Chattanooga. Atoyebi tallied 13 points and 10 rebounds and James scored 12 points and eight rebounds.

Elon beats College of Charleston (75-61)
Montell Watson led the Elon scorers with 15 points. Three other players scored in the double digits. Elon led the entire game and showed exceptional skill in shooting.

Graphic by Olivia Hubert-Allen

Community reacts to murder of UNC student body president

Andie Diemer News Editor

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - Eve Carson was found dead in a residential neighborhood a week ago, but her mysterious murder is still unsolved. The death of the former University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student body president has left the Elon community questioning the act and supporting the neighboring campus.

Carson, 22, was found dead after being shot multiple times - at least once in the right temple - early Wednesday morning, according to Chapel Hill Chief of Police Brian Curran. He said the incident was thought to be isolated and random.

Surveillance photos of an unknown male at an ATM in Chapel Hill attempting to use Carson's bank card were released Saturday. Investigators believe he may be connected to Carson's death. He is the biggest lead they have in tracking Carson's murderer, according to the Daily Tar Heel.



Senior Maggie Caswell waits at Polk Place to write a public message to Eve Carson. Chancellor James Moeser briefly spoke there, addressing the community about their loss. ANDIE DIEMER | Photographer

Curran said he doesn't believe any of her other bank cards have been used, but that Carson's cell phone records have been turned over to the police as well, which could help lead them in another direction.

Elon's student body president Rob Saunders said that he and the Senate are still in shock over the news, since it occurred so close to campus.

"Our university is also 30 percent North Carolinians, including myself,

so although we might not have known Eve ourselves, we have siblings and friends that go to UNC and know what a special person she was to that campus," Saunders said.

Associate professor of communications Brooke Barnett and Tom Mould, assistant professor of sociology and general studies, met Carson in Chapel Hill Feb. 26 at a mutual friend's house. Barnett said she was saddened to learn of a Carson's death.

"She was a bright, interesting, engaging woman," Barnett said. "We've lost someone who truly would have made a difference and already had in so many people's lives."

UNC has been on spring break this week, which may help students heal quicker, Elon Dean of Students Smith Jackson said.

He has been in contact with administrators from UNC and is crushed by their loss.

"Maybe there was nothing she could

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