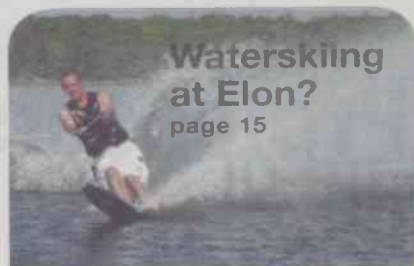


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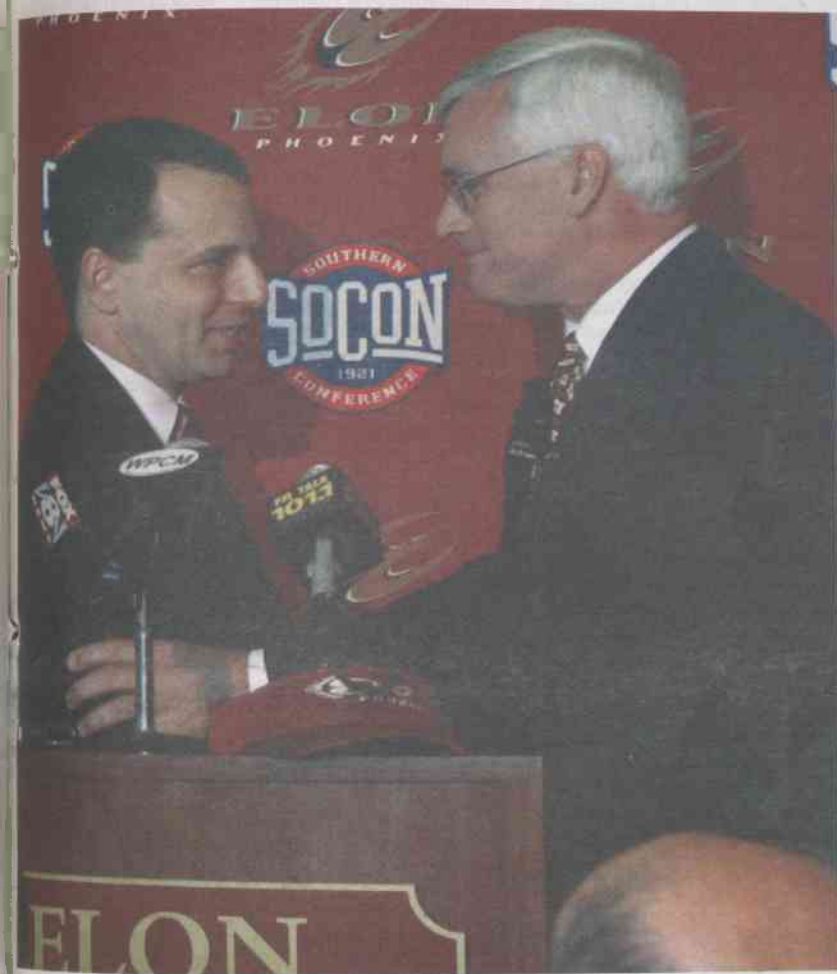
Waterskiing  
at Elon?  
page 15

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009 | VOLUME 35, EDITION 10

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## Davidson's Matheny hired as new men's head basketball coach



Pam Richter  
Sports Editor

As Matt Matheny took the podium to be introduced as the new men's basketball coach, an eruption of applause filled the Atkins room in the Koury Athletic center Sunday afternoon.

He shook Elon athletic director Dave Blank's hand then stood and received a standing ovation from the packed room.

Elon fans were excited and so was Matheny, who was wearing the maroon and gold in his tie and an Elon Phoenix pin.

"It took two minutes for me to get excited about this," Matheny said. "There's something special going on here."

On Sunday, Elon University announced the hiring of Matheny as the new head men's basketball coach. He became the 17th head coach in program history. The announcement came 20 days after former head coach Ernie Nestor was released.

During his Elon career, Nestor compiled a 67-117 record at Elon over six seasons.

"We were looking for someone who is committed to the importance of the co-existence of athletic and academic excellence, who has been in that environment and would understand what we need to do here at Elon University to maintain integrity in both areas," Elon athletic director, Dave Blank, said.

Matheny, 39, was named the

associate head coach of the Davidson University Wildcats in 2003. This past season marked his 16th season on the Davidson coaching staff under Bob McKillop.

"When I stepped foot on campus, it felt like home," Matheny said.

During his time at Davidson, Matheny experienced much success. The Wildcats won nine out of the last 13 Southern Conference division championships.

"I'm excited about this. Matt is the right person for the job," Blank said.

With spring break this past week at the university, the players were not able to meet the head coach before his hiring was officially announced.

"I met with the players from last season and they were really confident that I know them and would make the right choice," Blank said.

This was Blank's biggest hire in three years at the university. Blank previously hired a new women's basketball coach, men and women's cross country coach, women's soccer coach and women's track coach.

Last year, Blank hired women's basketball coach Karen Barefoot to replace former coach Brenda Paul.

The team has its first meeting Sunday night. This will be the first chance for players to meet with Matheny.

"I'm really excited," sophomore guard Chris Long said. "I think he'll be a great fit."

In addition to success on the court, Matheny said he is committed to helping the athletes succeed off the

See COACH | PAGE 13

## Half of North Carolinians oppose constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, according to recent Elon Poll

Margaux Corby  
News Editor

North Carolinians may not support full marriage rights for gays and lesbians, but the latest Elon Poll suggests a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage would not be passed.

Half of the latest Elon poll respondents opposed statewide constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, while 43 percent supported civil unions or partnerships but not full marriage rights.

Republican lawmakers filed Senate Bill 272 "Defense of Marriage" earlier this month. If the bill passes, it will place the amendment as a referendum on the November ballot, leaving the decision in voters' hands.

Senators supporting the bill stress the sanctity of marriage is at stake and North Carolina marital laws must be protected. The bill also defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

"We are sponsoring this legislation because we firmly believe North Carolina's

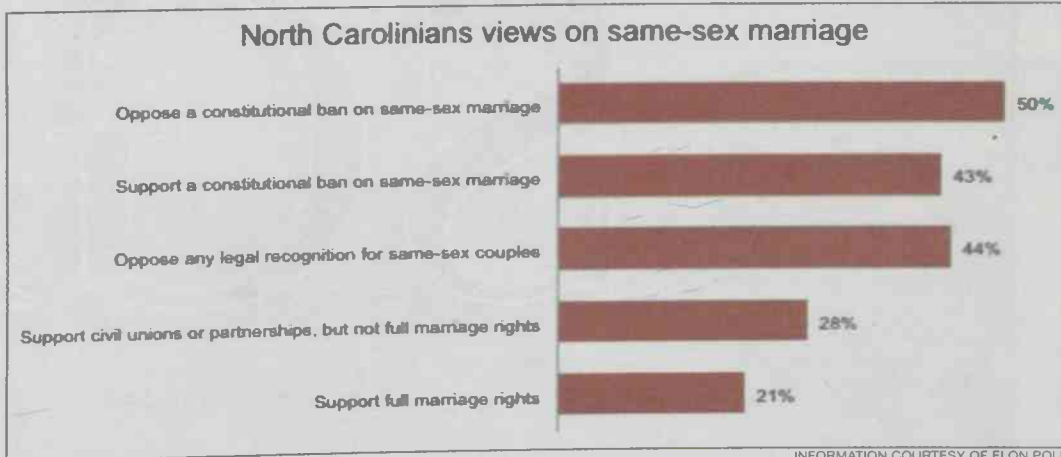
marriage laws are at risk of being redefined by activist courts to include same-sex couples," Sen. Jim Forrester told WRAL TV. "At any moment, a lawsuit challenging our marriage laws could be filed by a same-sex couple from our state that obtained a marriage license in a state where same-sex marriage is legal."

Freshman Kevin Newman is gay and believes people such as Forrester are scared that allowing same-sex marriage will make homosexuality seem more acceptable and cause a stream of people to step out of formerly locked closets.

"People don't want their kids to grow up to be gay," he said. "They fear it could lead to a gay society."

A rally of more than 1,000 people gathered on March 4 to demand state lawmakers

give them a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment concerning same-sex marriage after the bill was reintroduced. Among the groups represented were Return America of Davidson County and



INFORMATION COURTESY OF ELON POLL

The latest Elon Poll, which took place March 15-19, reports half of North Carolina residents oppose a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Many advocates for same-sex marriage have been protesting in response.

NC4Marriage.

"North Carolina is the only state in the southern United States that has not protected marriage in its State Constitution, which makes us a prime target for same-sex 'marriage' activists," said Tami Fitzgerald, NC4Marriage Executive Director in a February press release.

Groups in opposition to the bill state that it would not deny domestic partnerships and civil unions, as well as marriage. Many gay rights activists argue that the institution of marriage is constantly evolving and same-sex unions are a natural progression.

"Banning gay marriage gets us

nowhere," Newman said. "People should just learn to adapt."

The poll, which surveyed 620 North Carolina residents with a margin of plus or minus four percentage points, was conducted March 15-19. Fifty percent of respondents said they oppose a constitutional

See POLL | PAGE 4

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