



## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Teams expect a strong start for the season at Elon University's first ever home meet this Saturday  
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## FOUR years of FRIENDSHIP

### Tightly-bound cohorts prove very effective for student retention at Elon

Laura Wainman  
Senior Reporter

One of the factors every university keeps a careful eye on is the retention rate of students. With the current economy, it is more economical to retain students than to recruit new ones.

While a number of reasons contribute to a student's decision to remain at a university, studies show that students who take the same classes together and go through the same academic experiences are more likely to complete courses and stay at the school they are attending.

Elon's fellows programs and Elon 101 classes provide every student an opportunity to be a part of a cohort group right away.

There are six fellows programs at Elon: Business Fellows, Communications Fellows, Elon College Fellows, Honors Fellows, Leadership Fellows and Teaching Fellows. Each program has different requirements



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer  
Phoenix Phanatics president James Shaver visited Spanish professor Donna Van Bodegraven's Elon 101 class Tuesday. Elon 101 classes explore campus activities and help freshmen decide how to get involved.

for their students, but all place an emphasis on bonding the students together.

"Elon fellows programs all have excellent retention rates because it gives students a group to identify with right away," said Susan Klopman, vice president of admissions and financial planning.

Business Fellows become very acquainted with one another quickly as they are required to take one class

with their cohorts every semester.

Scott Buechler, former director of Business Fellows, said this grouping creates a very strong bond and develops strong friendships outside of the classroom setting.

"We require our fellows to take classes together, including Elon 101, because we want them to get to know each other well from the beginning in

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## Elon Law graduates jump the bar

Margeaux Corby  
News Editor

Elon Law School's inaugural class received an 83 percent bar passage rate, putting the graduates far above the 73 percent pass rate for the 1,120 people who took this year's exam administered by the Board of Law Examiners in July.

Wake Forest continues to dominate the state's top bar passage rate at 91 percent as well as Campbell University with 91 percent, followed by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at 87 percent and Duke University at 85 percent.

Elon Law School bested the 77 percent passage rate achieved by North Carolina Central University. Charlotte School of Law came in at 76 percent.

"I think it's a point of pride for the students and for the faculty and staff that they had such a bar passage rate for the first class," said Dan Anderson, director of University Relations. "It's a sign that the program is on the right track and doing the things that are necessary to prepare students for a career in law."

Students who graduated from law schools outside North Carolina and took the N.C. bar exam passed with a percentage rate of 59, Anderson said.

The bar exam is the test law school graduates must take to practice law, and it has about a 70 percent pass rate.

The two-section, two-day exam took place July 28 and 29 at the Raleigh Fairgrounds. On the first day, would-be lawyers must answer 12 essay questions designed to specifically test their knowledge of North Carolina law

On day two, test-takers must answer

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## Fewer students traveling abroad Winter Term 2010 despite more cost-effective programs

Laura Smith  
News Editor

While interest in Winter Term 2010 is still very popular, program enrollment for this January is down a bit because of the weakened economy.

As of Sept. 4, 592 students have enrolled in Winter Term courses. Last December, there were 688 students enrolled, a difference of 96 students.

"We probably won't capture 90 (more) new students," said Woody Pelton, dean of international programs and director of the Isabella Cannon Centre. "We'll end up being down, but a lot of things are down (right now)."

Three programs are full and closed as of press time, while seven are sorting out the waitlist. That brings the total number of programs fully closed to 10, fewer than what is usual this time of the year.

The first to close were New Zealand: The Business and Culture of New Zealand, Business in the Pacific Rim and South Africa: The Call of South Africa.

To combat the struggling economy, the

Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies has been revving up the publicity and marketing for the Winter Term programs.

Activities have included College Coffee tables, a table at the organization fair this Friday, increasing awareness among faculty, E-net ads and work with El Centro de Espanol, Elon's Spanish center.

The annual study abroad fair will also be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 16 in McKinnon Hall.

Winter Term programs have tweaked the academics a bit in the past year.

This year, most programs require a pre-departure one-credit course taken in the fall. Before last year, programs required several meetings but never a formal class.

"Part of the reason we ask (students to take them) is so they can spend a little more time laying out what they're really going to do," Pelton said.

The only courses not currently requiring the class are Costa Rica: Jungle Service, Costa Rica: Language, Culture and Ecotourism, Hawaii: Nation

or State? In Search of Hawaiian Identity, New Zealand: The Business and Culture of New Zealand and Peru: The Living Heritage of the Andes: Language, Society and Environment.

"It's a very clever model," Pelton said. "I think it really benefits the students. I think when you arrive, you have a better sense, a better knowledge, more background of what it is you're seeing, and I think you do enjoy it more."

While the economy may be taking a slight toll on study abroad enrollment this year, the 2010 programs might be the best to take advantage of.

"Our prices are down," said Alana Dunn, international programs adviser. "This year's are less than last year's cost. We also anticipate that when the economy starts to recover in time for Winter Term 2011, the costs will go up again. For students who think they might be able to incorporate it this year, it's a more cost-effective year."

There are still spots open in 17 of the Winter Term programs, and the deadline for applying is Sept. 21.

### WINTER TERM 2010 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS STILL AVAILABLE

- Australia:** Indigenous Studies
- Barbados:** Post-Colonial Culture and Society
- Chile:** Thriving but Still Recovering (new)
- China:** The Flying Dragon
- Costa Rica:** Jungle Service
- Costa Rica:** Language, Culture and Ecotourism
- Great War:** The Culture of the Great War
- Guam:** Island Legends: Service and Learning with the Elders of Guam
- Guatemala:** Culture and Service
- Hawaii:** Nation or State? In Search of Hawaiian Identity
- Honduras:** Social Entrepreneurship in Honduras
- India:** Science Education and Development
- Italy's Heritage:** Past is Present
- Italy:** Fine Arts
- London:** Human Services Practicum in London (new)
- London's Immigrant Communities:** Documenting Diversity Through Photographs and Words
- Peru:** The Living Heritage of the Andes: Language, Society and Environment