

# LaRose, Former chair of the Board of Trustees dies at 65

Samantha King  
News Editor

Former chair of Elon's Board of Trustees and philanthropist Robert LaRose unexpectedly died on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the age of 65.

LaRose graduated from Elon in 1966 and majored in mathematics and physics. He was employed by Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company upon graduation and carved his future career paths from his interest in computer technology.

LaRose took the knowledge he acquired from his first job and became a successful business entrepreneur. He founded three companies.

The first company he founded, Advanced Technology Inc., specialized in innovative decorative laminates, located on West Market Street in Greensboro, in 1976. He sold the company in 1988 to Emhart Corp. for \$140 million, according to Washington Technology Web site, a government contracting news Web site.

The second company he founded, Integic Corp.,

is a company focusing on federal health care. Integic became a \$180 million a year enterprise before he sold it to Northrop Grumman Corp. it for \$300 million in 2005.

Agilex was the last company he founded. It was

founded just three years ago and "will likely hit \$100 million in annual revenue in 2011," according to Washington Technology.

Agilex's mission statement said the company is "an employee-owned professional services firm providing business and mission consulting, software and solution development and system integration service" dedicated to providing clients with management consulting and information technology employees.

LaRose left a lasting impression on his companies and employees.

"As a visionary leader, Bob was a once-in-a-lifetime inspiration to all of us," Jay H. Nussbaum, chief operating officer of Agilex Technologies, Inc. said in a press release. "He will be remembered for his compassion, tenacity and for the opportunities he helped shape for all of us. He will be missed tremendously and never forgotten."

LaRose was extremely interested in the transformative power of innovation and technology, the press release from Agilex said.

In addition to his business ventures, LaRose served on the Board of Trustees for various organizations in the community and institutions such as James Madison University, the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women and Elon University.

"Bob had a significant impact on a number of communities," said John Gall, Executive Vice President, Agilex Technologies. "In addition to his many charitable activities, he was an important mentor to many of the region's technology, business and government leaders. He helped to change the Washington region for the better."

LaRose founded and actively participated in the Fairfax County Education Foundation in May 1983 "as a way to combat students' declining achievement in

local schools and lack of preparedness to enter the burgeoning technology workforce" according to the mission statement on the Fairfax County Education Foundation Web site.

He also served on the Board of Trustees for a number of community organizations.

LaRose served more than 20 years on Elon's Board of Trustees and held the position of Chair from 1997-99. In 1998, Elon granted LaRose an honorary doctorate during the commencement ceremony.

LaRose and his wife, Gail, gifted Elon with \$1 million in honor of their parents for the Resources Center in Mooney Building. Elon named the "LaRose Digital Theater" in recognition of a large donation from LaRose and his wife.

LaRose resided in Clifton, Va., and was an active member there.

Memorial services were held at Centreville Methodist Church in Centreville, Va. on Tuesday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF E-NET

Robert LaRose, former chair of the Board of Trustees and '66 alumnus of Elon, died earlier this month. LaRose was actively involved in the Elon community.

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As a visionary leader, Bob was a once-in-a-lifetime leader to us all. He will be remembered for his tenacity, compassion and for the opportunities he helped shape for all of us.

- Jay H. Nussbaum  
Chief Operating Officer of Agilex  
Technologies, Inc.

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## Royster Settles case out of court to protect student confidentiality

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News Editor

Leigh-Anne Royster, coordinator for personal health programs and community well-being, settled a case against the Town of Elon police department last fall.

Royster was arrested April 29, 2009, for resisting a public officer, since she refused to disclose information regarding a student's sexual assault.

Royster's warrant was issued on April 28 and she was arrested on April 29 for resisting an officer and placed under a \$500 bond.

Her case was dismissed by Rob Johnson, Alamance County District

Attorney, Monday, May 6, 2009 on grounds of conflicting interest.

"Prosecution of this charge in criminal court is not in the best interests of justice in this case," Johnson said in an

interview last spring. "Rather, the state encourages the parties to engage in full and candid dialogue with a view toward reaching a solution or understanding designed to prevent any such future conflicts."

Royster primarily counsels victims of sexual assault cases and had reported the assault in question to Campus Safety and Police. Royster did not release the identity of the victim because university protocol involving student rights and protection prohibits the release of any information with out prior

written consent.

Campus Safety and police then reported the case to Town of Elon Police since the incident occurred off campus.

"The main reason that I did that was because I didn't want the student to feel as if she or he would have to speak up on my behalf," Royster said. "The court would have had to subpoena the student survivor against the police."

Royster refused to give clear details as to the exact amount or surrounding circumstances of the agreement reached, but said, "I would not have anything beyond a settlement," Royster said. "I would not have pursued a civil suite."

According to the North Carolina Court System Web site, civil suites aimed to protect private citizens and usually encompass divorce, child custody and personal injury claims and usually do not result in some of more than \$10,000.

Had Royster settled the case in court, the amount of time to reach a verdict could have taken years, Royster's attorney told her. Royster said she did not want the relationship between the university and police to be strained that long.

"It would have made moving on impossible," Royster said. "I hope (the settlement) will provide us the opportunity to build a better relationship and understanding with the police."

Royster said the main reason she sought an out-of-court settlement was to resolve issues with procedures between the police and the confidentiality issues mandated by the university.

"The bigger issue is that students need to feel safe," Royster said. "The law needs to respect their rights and wishes."

The Elon Police department declined to comment prior to deadline.



LINDSAY FENDT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sandy's Subs will no longer accept Phoenix Cash, since the university revoked the bar's right. Sandy's was the beta site for the Phoenix Cash program. The dissolution of the contract marks the end of a ten-year partnership.

## Despite lack of evidence, Elon stands by decision

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feature for students."

Mullen said that when the university looks at a business that requests Phoenix Cash privileges it looks at it through this lens.

"If it is a straight bar, and that is all it is, we feel it doesn't fit the mission of Elon and we would not put Phoenix Cash in a business like that," Mullen said. "The other thing we look at is the variety of business."

Mullen would not comment on Sandy's violation of contract but said the contract covered things like alcohol policies, business practices and ethics.

There are some students who are unhappy with the decision and have started a petition, "University Students Petition to Return Phoenix Cash to Sandy's," on Facebook.

Chris Carmichael, 21, said he goes to Sandy's to use its "make your own six pack" and is unhappy with the decision.

"It is taking away from local

business," Carmichael said. "I feel like there is a lot of prejudice with Sandy's."

According to Elon Police Department records, there have not been any alcohol violations or citations issued to Sandy's. While the Alcohol Law Enforcement agency was contacted many times about citations issued at Sandy's they did not respond by deadline.

"It is the kids who are going to suffer," Saldanha said. "It is unfair to the students, and unfair they did not give us a heads up. We have 15 cameras, if they had come to us and asked, 'did this happen,' I could have defended myself."

Sandy's was the first off-campus location where Phoenix Cash was introduced.

"Sandy's was the first site," Mullen said. "It was our beta site which makes this more difficult. And I know Greg, he is a great guy. Which, again, makes this more difficult."