

## THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

## MORE ONLINE:

## GRADUATION REHEARSAL:

A look behind the scenes of those involved with the ceremony.

ONLINE

## SENIOR GALA:

Night for seniors to don their classy attire and enjoy a night of dancing.

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## SENIOR PICNIC:

Afternoon for seniors to gather with their favorite faculty and staff.

ONLINE

## BACCALAUREATE:

Spiritual gathering for students and their visiting family to reflect on the past four years.

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## GRADUATION CEREMONY:

A capstone experience on a student's experience at Elon where they have grown from an acorn to an oak sapling.

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# THE PENDULUM

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## Celebrating the Class of 2010



COREY GROOM | Staff Photographer

Seniors Catherine Siegel, Michelle Murphy, Mariah Koster and Jennifer Kennedy pose under the commemorative balloon archway at the Senior Picnic Wednesday. The picnic was held at the Moseley Center Green and students and faculty joined to celebrate commencement.

## Softball captures first-ever SoCon crown

Pam Richter  
Editor-in-Chief

As the regionals for the 2010 NCAA softball tournament were announced, the Elon University softball team erupted in cheers when they saw that it would not face the No. 1 overall seed in the tournament, the University of Alabama. After being one of the final regionals announced and watching other teams learn their fates in the NCAA tournament, the Phoenix finally found out where it would be headed in the first round — Athens, Ga.

But for a team who captured its first-ever Southern Conference tournament win, which resulted in an automatic bid in the NCAA tournament, it was worth the wait.

"This was 10 years in the making," Elon head coach Patti Raduenz said. "We have a young team this year that has put in the hours, that has worked hard, stayed positive."

Raduenz is in her 10th season coaching the Phoenix, and this year the team recorded a program-best 38 wins.

"They have the passion day in and day out," Raduenz said. "I have two of the best assistant coaches in the country that help me bring the best out of these players."

The Phoenix found itself in the Athens Regional, along with Radford University, Florida State University and its first-game opponent, the University of Georgia. The Phoenix's first game of the tournament was at 5 p.m. Friday, May 21 against the Bulldogs.

Sixty-four teams in the NCAA softball tournament are broken into 16 regionals. The winner of each

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## Recent graduates get creative with job search

**Camille DeMere**  
Online Programs Director

Graduation day isn't a scary day. Don't believe it? Last year on graduation day, '09 graduates might not have bought it either. According to a survey from National Association of Colleges and Employers, only 19.7 percent of graduates last year had a job by the time they walked across the stage. The association reported this spring that employers plan to hire about 6 percent more graduates this year than last.

But some Elon University seniors will still toss their caps in the air today without knowing what exactly the job market holds. What do 2009 alumni say to that? Don't worry.

"People focus too much on after college," 2009 graduate Alex Nickodem said. "They should be making this much or have this job. Some of the happiest people I've seen now are working for AmeriCorps or different non profits."

When he received his diploma last year Nickodem had a few job offers, but decided not to take any of them.

"I didn't want to jump into an entry level job just for

the sake of having a job," he said. "I had to sit and think and pray about where I should be."

And he decided where he should be was in Buena Vista, Colo., working with two friends from Elon for Noah's Ark, a whitewater rafting company. He was a cook, combining his love of bringing people together over meals with taking time to find himself.

"I had four years of college and feel like the time frame is really man made," he said.

Nickodem spent the winter working at Copper Mountain Ski Resort in Summit City, Colo. and was considering returning to Noah's Ark for another season. But that changed when he applied for the Phoneathon Coordinator position at University Advancement, and put plans in motion to return to his home of four years.

"If there's anything people make fun of me because I like it so much, it's Elon," he said. "I never had a true amount of responsibility as this, so being around Elon is pretty awesome place to have the adventure."

Lindsay Borousch is now a special assistant on the climate initiative, but she was another senior without a job last May. She turned to the connections she made during her last semester. The representative she worked

for at the North Carolina General Assembly reached out to the political network in Washington, D.C. After two phone interviews and an in-person interview, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in the capital offered her a job.

"I lucked out timing-wise," she said.

The week that the job offer was finalized was also her last week working for the North Carolina General Assembly. She started the job just two days after the offer.

"I felt really lucky because D.C. is one of the larger alumni associations," Borousch said. "My roommate has even helped some people in my graduating class get jobs."

Borousch said recent graduates should remember that even if they don't have a job, they shouldn't let their resume have a blank spot. She suggests volunteering or working a summer job, so a potential boss doesn't ask the graduate to explain six months of not doing anything.

"Your first job might not be your dream job — not everyone finds that their first year out, but don't be deterred," she said. "If you put in your time, you will get to where you want to be."

**COMMENCEMENT ISSUE: ONLINE CONTENT**

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