

Summer news roundup

# Board of trustees elects new members

## Three North Carolina businessmen look to bring international perspectives

Jack Dodson  
News Editor

The October meeting of Elon University's board of trustees will have three new faces — Jim Sankey, Eric Hinshaw and Dalton ("Mac") McMichael — all of whom were elected at the board's spring meeting.

All three of the men are North Carolina-based businessmen with varying connections to Elon. Sankey has two sons that currently attend the university, a rising junior and a rising sophomore, and McMichael's son went to the graduated from Elon. Hinshaw has members of his extended family who attended Elon.

### Eric Hinshaw

Hinshaw is the chairman of the board and CEO of Kingsdown, Inc., a mattress company in Mebane, N.C. He grew up in Alamance County and went to Duke University, hoping to eventually become an attorney, he said. He patterned himself after a friend who was both an attorney and a certified public accountant.

Plans changed after Hinshaw's father died while he was at Duke. He said he had to constantly work to support his mother and his education.

Between a job and classes, Hinshaw said he didn't think law school could have been an option once he finished Duke, despite his desire to be an attorney.

"I was almost starving to death," he said. "And I just didn't think that without a break I could do that."

After graduating college in 1971, he began working for a law office where Kingsdown was a frequent client. Four years later he went to lead a division at Kingsdown. Six years after that, at 30 years old, he became the CEO of the company.

"It was a combination of satisfaction, exhilaration and fear," he said. "Now, my fear's been turned into caution and my exhilaration into experience."

In his years working for Kingsdown, Hinshaw has received numerous awards. In 2009 he was awarded Elon's Frank S. Holt, Jr. Business Leadership Award from the Love School of Business.

Since then, he said he's become good friends with Mary Gowan, the dean of the business school and the university's President, Leo Lambert.

"I have respect for the type of student Elon is producing," he said. "I've been knowing Elon and have been a fan of it for many years. I've seen the school develop from a localized school to a really good regional school and I've admired that progress."

Hinshaw said he hopes he can offer his view of international business to the board, because his company works a lot overseas.

"I'm hoping I can bring a bit of an international

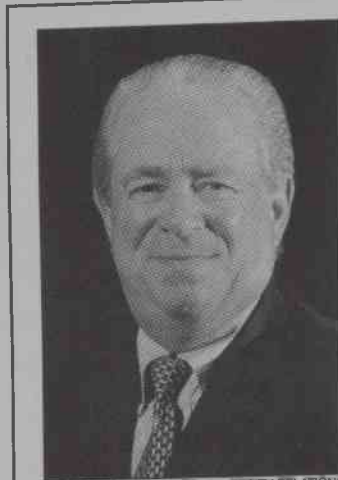


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
Eric Hinshaw, chairman of the board and CEO of Kingsdown, Inc.

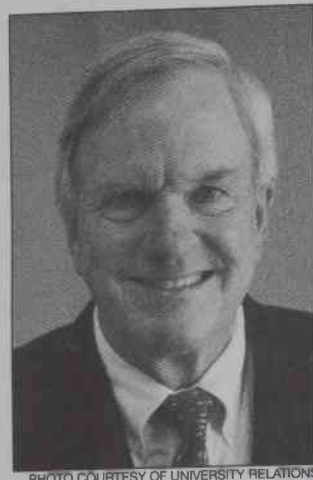


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
Dalton (Mac) McMichael, founder and president of McMichael Mills.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
Jim Sankey, president and CEO of InVue Security Products.

business and world market expertise (to the board)," he said. "I feel that's possibly an area of expertise I can share with the school."

### Dalton (Mac) McMichael

McMichael's sister, Gail Drew, is currently a member of Elon's board of trustees as well, and the science building at the school is named after McMichael's father, who was a large benefactor of the school.

As the founder and president of McMichael Mills, an elastic yarn company based in Madison, N.C., he said his main focus is in business.

Until recently, he had been on the board of trustees at Guilford College, though he earned his undergraduate degree at North Carolina State University.

The recent move to Elon came after years of McMichael and representatives from the school talking about him coming to the board, he said, but until now he had been focusing on his work for the board of trustees at Guilford.

"I'm looking forward to the differences in how Elon runs itself and how Guilford runs itself," McMichael said.

McMichael is involved with various leadership positions, as a member of the board of visitors at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and a contributing member of the McMichael Family Foundation, which supports Elon School of Law students. He said he's looking forward to seeing Elon

grow while he's on the school board.

"My goal is to help Elon continue to prosper any way I can," he said. "Where Elon's come in the last 10 to 20 years is a fabulous success story, and I'm just looking forward to seeing what it can become in the next 10 years."

### Jim Sankey

Sankey, the Charlotte-based president and CEO of InVue Security Products, said he hopes he can offer an international business point of view. InVue sells security products to retailers around the world.

"Our company does a lot of overseas work," he said. "And I think Elon's approach to get students connected outside the country is really a smart approach."

Sankey said he was out at lunch with President Leo Lambert some time in May when he found out that he had been elected to the board.

"I feel honored that I was asked to be on the board, and I certainly hope to add something to it," he said.

Before his days at InVue, Sankey owned a few businesses dealing in other markets. He sold them and started InVue in the 1980s.

Sankey is a member of the board of trustees for Thermanova, a humanitarian prosthetics and orthotics clinic in Romania. He also works with building orphanages in other countries.

"Any humanitarian effort Elon is involved in, I think I could bring some perspective," he said.

# Former student files suit against The Elon School, teachers

Anna Johnson  
Managing Editor

A former student has filed suit against The Elon School and two former teachers for "breach of contract" and "for negligent infliction of emotional distress."

Kathryn "Khacki" Greene and her parents Deborah and Tom filed the suit against the private high school, located across from Johnston Hall and the Truitt Building, on June 15. Greene attended The Elon School her sophomore and junior year and, according to the lawsuit, has since moved to Rhode Island.

The lawsuit names the school and two former teachers Taylor Saxe and Caitlin McKinney as defendants.

Saxe was Greene's

geometry teacher and coach of the girl's soccer team. McKinney was Greene's English teacher, academic advisor and worked at Greene's parents' restaurant.

The lawsuit claims Saxe was displeased when Greene's driver's education classes coincided with soccer practices. It was at this point "Saxe engaged in behavior that was hostile" towards Greene.

The hostile behavior included not being available for geometry tutoring, not making eye contact with Greene, answering Greene's questions

in monosyllables and making "disparaging comments" about Greene to the boys' soccer team. Members of the boys' soccer team allegedly told Greene about the comments made by Saxe.

Greene mentioned to McKinney "that she felt Saxe did not like her." The lawsuit claims McKinney told Greene this was not the case.

Greene's parents met with school officials to discuss her experience with Saxe in 2007.

The lawsuit then states an unmarked package was anonymously delivered

to Greene's parents' restaurant. The package contained e-mail exchanges between the two teachers and had "disparaging comments about the students,

**"THE PACKAGE ... HAD 'DISPARAGING COMMENTS ABOUT THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF AT ELON, INCLUDING DEROGATORY COMMENTS ABOUT KHACKI AND HER FAMILY.'"**

-EXCERPT FROM COURT DOCUMENTS

faculty and staff at The Elon School, including derogatory comments about Khacki (Greene) and her family."

Greene and her mother went to school officials to discuss the matter where they were told the school would treat the internal affair as a "learning tool."

In February, 2009 another anonymous package of emails were delivered to Greene's parents' restaurant.

The lawsuit claims the second batch of e-mails caused publicity and "Elon has been content to let Saxe



ANNA JOHNSON | Photographer  
An Elon School student recently sued the private high school and two former teachers, Taylor Saxe and Caitlin McKinney, for emotional distress caused to a student by two teachers. The issue received initial publicity when an anonymous package filled with e-mails containing "disparaging comments" was left for the parents of the plaintiff.

and McKinney finish the school year despite their clear incompetence."

It was the publicity from the e-mails, the lawsuit claims, which forced The Elon School to terminate Saxe and McKinney's employment.

The lawsuit states students have access to teacher's e-mail accounts and Greene could have seen the e-mails and "that this would cause severe emotional distress." The lawsuit does not say if students delivered the unmarked packages.

The Elon School has a policy that

states all electronic communication systems are property of the school and may be reviewed periodically "to assure that the use of the e-mail communication system is consistent with the school's interest."

The Elon School Headmaster John Silva said he could not comment on current legal matters. Frank Johns of Booth, Harrington & Johns is representing Greene and said they could not speak to the media about the case. McKinney, Saxe and Greene could not be reached for comment.