

# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011 | VOLUME 37, EDITION 3

www.elon.edu/pendulum

## History of conflict in Egypt hits home for Elon community



Kassandra Cloos  
News Editor

Although riots in Egypt are calming down, Shereen Elgamal, assistant professor of Arabic, has not stopped worrying.

Elgamal said she lived in Egypt for 28 years before coming to the United States in 1993 and is "beside herself with worry." Except for her husband and children, all of Elgamal's relatives still live in Egypt.

"I called back home and some people are apprehended and in custody and some people are not and waiting for this to happen," Elgamal said. "Some people are missing, totally, and some people are badly hurt and in hospitals trying to get treatment."

Following the Tunisian uprisings that resulted in the ousting of President Ben Ali, millions of Egyptians have been protesting in the streets of Cairo in an attempt to force President Hosni Mubarak, who has ruled since 1981, out of power.

What started as mass protests against Mubarak Jan. 25 soon escalated when pro-Mubarak forces entered the equation

and clashes became violent. As many of the protesters coordinated through social media, the government turned off all Internet and mobile phone access on Jan. 28.

While access was restored Feb. 2, after Mubarak announced he would not run for reelection in September, the communication gap did not stop the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians who continued to convene in Tahrir, or Liberation Square.

"Didn't anybody see this happen?" Elgamal said. "Was it a surprise that Hosni Mubarak has been resented by his people for many years? Has it been unclear that he is 82 years old preparing to run for presidency? Was the suffering of the Egyptians unknown? It has been known to everybody, and everybody was sitting and watching."

Freshman Ronda Ataalla, whose parents are Egyptians currently living in North Carolina, said the violence in Egypt was difficult for her parents.

"They're taking

See EGYPT | PAGE 2

Photos courtesy of MCT Campus LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

## Elon's price tag expected to increase by \$1,496

Sam Parker  
Senior Reporter

In the face of major tuition increases at colleges around the country, Elon University's administration has planned to increase tuition by 3.98 percent for the 2011-2012 academic year, totaling \$1,496, the smallest increase in more than a decade.

Steven House, the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Elon has made a conscious effort to uphold its lower tuition prices in order to preserve its reputation as a best-value university.

"One of The Elon Commitment goals is to maintain Elon as a best-value institution, which means big bang for the buck," House said. "And we're trying to make the bucks as small as possible. When you compare us with our peer institutions, our tuition is considerably lower."

Meghan Green, a junior athlete on the Elon golf team, said despite the low tuition increase and her partial athletic scholarship, the raise in her tuition is still a stretch for her family because of the tight economy.

"Elon is an expensive school to begin with, but one of the best buys for a private school, as they say," Green said. "My family and I are looking at Elon more as an investment and less as a cash outflow. However, as a business major, I can understand the tuition increase with the increased cost of commodities and the declining value of the dollar."

A recent article in The Burlington Times News stated 13 of the University of North Carolina's 17 campuses want their Board of Governors' permission for maximum tuition increases, which are limited to 6.5 percent per year, because of statewide budget cuts.

Gerald Whittington, senior vice president of business, finance and technology, said although Elon suffers from the same general deficits as the rest of the country, expansion and growth are still possible.

House said he is grateful Elon is not enduring the same financial burdens as larger, public universities because private funding allows the university to continue to seek excellence.

"We are very blessed," House said.

"There are institutions all around that are cutting because there aren't enough funds to support the programs they already have, but we're supporting the programs we already have and supporting new ones. We're very fortunate."

In considering the allocations of this year's budget, Whittington, House, President Leo Lambert and the Business and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees weighed the external forces affecting the university, Whittington said.

"We consider questions such as, 'What's the national economy like?'" Whittington said. "How's our enrollment doing? 'What's the retention like?' 'What's the consumer price index doing?' Things of that nature."

According to House, the next step involves collecting revenues and considering where money should be spent. He said funds are allocated toward programs deemed the highest priorities according to The Elon Commitment. This year, financial aid, faculty salaries, various

academic programs, a national center for engaged learning, gender equity scholarships for athletes and numerous construction projects are receiving sufficient amounts of money.

Whittington said most of the gifts Elon receives each year from philanthropies go toward financial aid and scholarships for students. He said funding also stems from increased tuition rates in the MBA and law programs, as well as from higher room and board prices.

Whittington said a raw copy of the budget is in its final stages of the process and has been given to the Board of Trustees and a final verdict is expected by Feb. 14.

Tuition: 3.98% increase  
Room Rent: 5.92% increase  
Board: 4.35% increase  
Health/SGA Fees: 0% increase