

Hello  
My name is:  
Elon's beloved mascot, the Phoenix, is getting a name  
->> PAGE 12



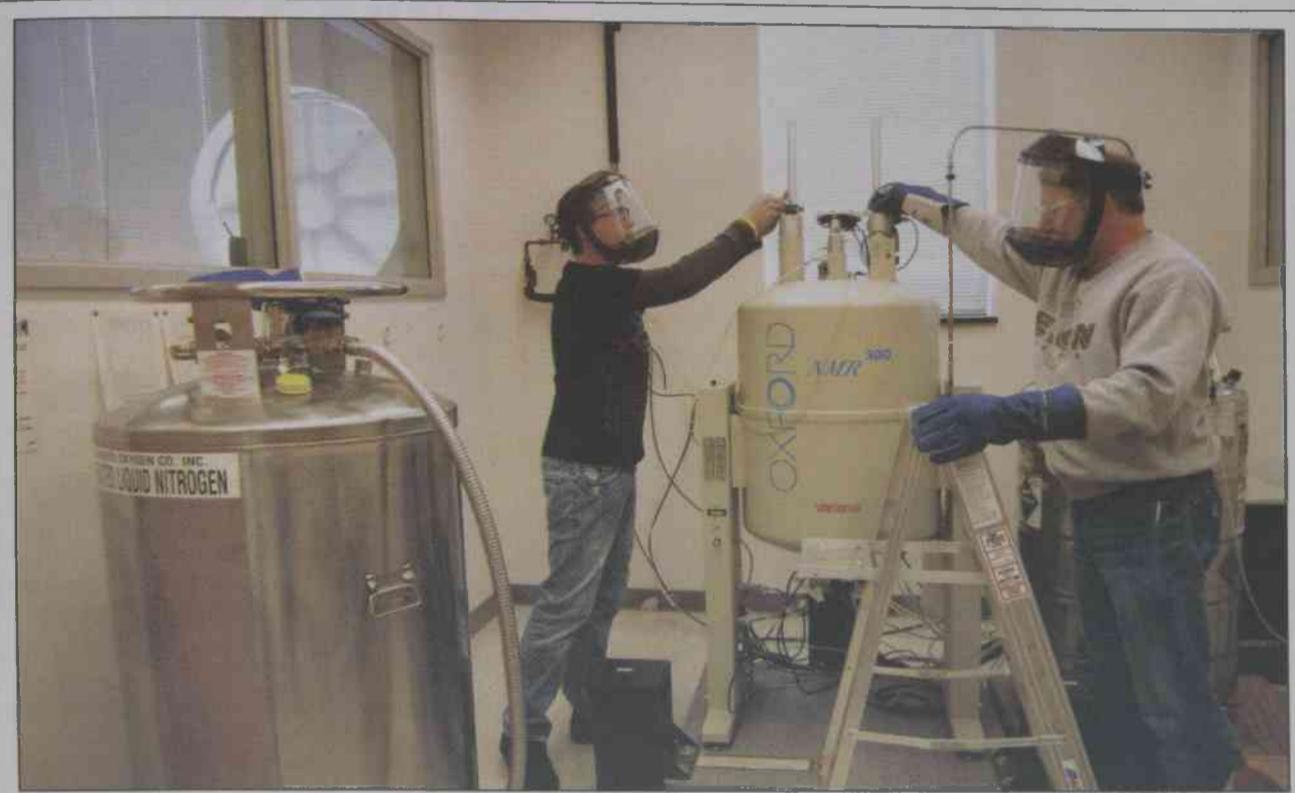
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->> PAGE 6



# THE PENDULUM

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Senior chemistry major Geoff Hall (left) and lab manager Paul Weller (right) perform a liquid helium fill of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometer. The engaged learning on Elon's campus is one of the ways faculty strive to ensure students learn, despite a recent study citing little knowledge gained during the college years.

## Sandy's receives fourth ALE violation

Becca Tynes  
Senior Reporter

Sandy's Steaks and Subs received its fourth Alcohol Law Enforcement violation after an agent witnessed a bartender selling alcohol to underage patrons in late February.

Several other individuals were charged with underage possession of alcohol that same night, said Ron Dilliard, assistant agent in charge with the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. The names of the individuals will not be released until the report is officially filed with the Commission.

This is Sandy's fourth violation since 2009. The bar received two violations on Jan. 24, 2009 for selling alcohol to underage patrons and another violation for the same offense April 2, 2010, according to Agnes Stevens, public relations director for the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

If Sandy's is found guilty of this most recent violation, it may result in either a 30-day suspension of their permits to sell alcohol or a five-day suspension and an additional \$3,500 fine, Stevens said.

"It is too early to know for sure about this particular case, but that's what the standard suspension or fine would be for this type of violation," Stevens said.

Sandy's should either better train its bartenders and employees or become more diligent about who they sell alcoholic beverages to, Dilliard said.

Employees and the owner of Sandy's had no comment.

"The possession of a license that permits the sale of alcohol is a privilege, and a whole lot of responsibility comes along with it," Dilliard said.

## National study finds 45 percent of students learn little in college

Becca Tynes  
Senior Reporter

A college degree isn't always all it's cracked up to be. According to recent findings, a college degree does not necessarily mean a student has learned very much, if anything at all, during his or her time in college.

The research of more than 2,300 undergraduates found that 45 percent of college students show little improvement in critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing by the end of their sophomore years. Thirty-six percent of students show little improvement over four years of college.

The study is discussed in the recently published book, "Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses," written by Richard Arum of New York University and Josipa Roksa of the University of Virginia.

In the book, Arum and Roksa report that colleges are failing at their most basic mission — teaching students,

and assisting them in their learning.

According to the book, factors that contribute to the low percentage of students who learn in college include the actions, attitudes and demands of both professors and students.

While it is a professor's responsibility to teach students concepts and information, it is the student's job to learn and study the material a professor teaches, said Peter Felten, assistant provost and director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

"Sometimes, I think that students forget what college is for," he said.

Some students today have a consumer attitude toward education, Felten said, and he believes many students across the country feel entitled to receive a certain grade simply because tuition is being paid.

See LEARNING | PAGE 6

## Students react to meal plan changes bringing complaints, petitions before ARAMARK

Caitlin O'Donnell  
News Editor

Students have responded with petitions and complaints directed to ARAMARK, Elon University's food service provider, after recently introduced changes to the current meal plan system.

Freshman Eric Carroll created an event on Facebook to gauge the mindset of the student body before he contacted ARAMARK earlier this month. He had logged into Ontrack to register for his meal plan for next year and said he was outraged when he saw the new options.

"A lot of students commented on the event page immediately, expressing their dislike with the new meal plan system," he said. "A lot of students told me they felt blindsided and they were

unaware of the change until they saw the Facebook event."

Carroll met with ARAMARK representatives March 17 after Laura Thompson, food service director, noticed his written complaint in the comments box of the Elon Dining Services website.

Jeff Gazda, resident district manager of ARAMARK, said it is the policy of dining services to respond immediately to any issue presented by a student.

"We pride ourselves on answering the majority of questions we receive from the 'contact us' feature of the dining services website within 24 hours," he said. "When the comment requires more than simple email responses, we request a face to face meeting. Eric Carroll is the perfect example of this."

Although Carroll said ARAMARK quickly made it clear there is no way to

keep the current meal plan system, they were open to discussing ways to make it better.

Ideas presented by Carroll included making the block plan available to students living on campus with a sophomore standing or higher. Under the changes, students living in residence halls are required to sign up for one of the all-access plans.

"They said they wouldn't be able to make that change because they wouldn't be able to afford it," Carroll said.

He also suggested creating a different meal plan option between the block and all-access plans that would be available to students living on campus with a sophomore standing or higher.

Gazda said Dining Services is still listening to all points of view at this time.

"We cannot say what is being considered since Elon University Dining Services only represents one department among many that must work in partnership to reach any significant final decision," he said.

Though Carroll said he personally loves the current system, his goal is to work with ARAMARK and provide continuous feedback to help with the dining hall experience for all students.

"I know a worthless cause when I see one and attempting to keep our current meal plan system is one," Carroll said. "The new system has been finalized and sent out to incoming students, parents, alumni and other Elon affiliates."

Gazda said the all access and block

See MEAL PLAN | PAGE 3