



**Brooke Greenberg**  
releases first  
single pg. 12

**Elon athletes face**  
challenges to study  
abroad pg. 18

**Q&A with SGA**  
Executive Presidential  
candidates Avery  
Steadman and Sean  
Barry pg.6

# THE PENDULUM

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## Pi Kappa Phi suspended

*Second fraternity to be scrutinized for alleged hazing this school year*

Leena Dahal  
Assistant News Editor

Elon University's chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity is currently under investigation for alleged hazing in its new member education process, according to a statement by Vice President for Student Life Smith Jackson.

All Pi Kappa Phi activities and operations — including any formal or informal new member meetings, activities such as brotherhood events, chapter meetings, intramurals or philanthropy on or off campus — have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

"The university takes these allegations seriously," Jackson said. "[We] are working expeditiously to complete a thorough investigation and make appropriate responses. Student safety and well being is our top concern."

The university-owned fraternity house assigned to Pi Kappa Phi will remain open only for the members currently living in the facility. According to Jackson, university officials are working closely with the Pi Kappa Phi National office to thoroughly investigate the claims.

Greek Life staff has been working with the men in the chapter to ensure they are briefed on the details of the situation and will guide them in the process through the investigation process.

In an email to The Pendulum, Eric Burgess, the Chapter President, said, "The brother's of Pi Kappa Phi are aware of the allegations and are focused on fully cooperating with Elon University as well as our National Organization throughout the investigation."

The Epsilon Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was founded at Elon in 1979. According to the fraternity's website, their chapter focuses greatly on academic success — they have 13 members currently serving on student government, a large proportion of members are enrolled in one or more fellows programs as well as many of the honorary professional fraternities and six out of the last seven Student Government

## Frozen in February

*Octavia break for some, work for others*



PHOTO BY JANE SEIDEL | Photo Editor

Left to right: Physical Plant workers Seaton Blackwood, Terry Rogers and Tanner Long clear an icy set of stairs outside Lakeside Dining Hall Tuesday morning. Physical Plant employees worked around the clock Monday night into Tuesday morning as a nasty wintry mix coated the Triad, prompting Gov. Pat McCrory to declare a state of emergency. Though there were a handful of car accidents reported around campus, no student injuries were reported as of publication. After some hesitation, the university closed on Tuesday as travel proved treacherous. See pages 2, 3.

## In search of a ceiling

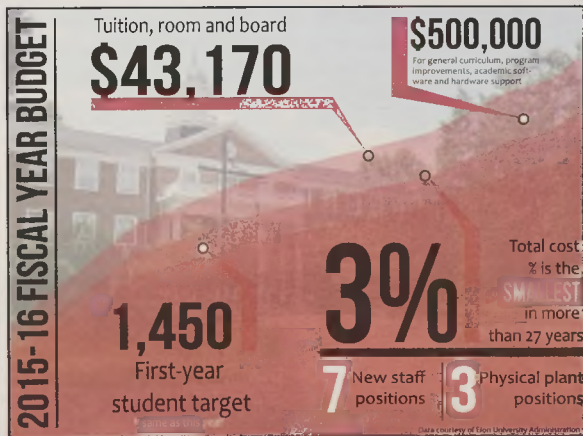
*Historically-low Elon budget increase weighs cost, quality*

Michael Bodley  
Editor-in-Chief

In an era in which the cost of college climbs higher and higher each year, Elon University recently delivered a bold statement with the rollout of its 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. Slashing the tuition increase to a 27-year low of 3 percent — down from last year's 3.96 percent bump — the new spending plan was said by senior university officials to toe a hard line on the cost-quality conundrum.

Despite persistent student grumbles on the rising cost of higher education — at Elon and elsewhere — some constraints are concrete, according to Greg Zaiser, vice president of admissions and financial planning.

Rising inflation and increased operating costs associated with a growing campus make a net decrease now all but impossible for the uni-



versity to offer to its wistful students, he said.

"Operational costs increase regularly," Zaiser wrote in an email. "I have great respect and appreciation for our Board of Trustees, President Lambert and others for recognizing and addressing increasing costs of higher education. They have

taken a significant stance by keeping next year's total increase the lowest it has been in 27 years."

Roped into a national higher education landscape that has shown few signs of slowing its scope, Elon's hands are in some ways tied — it can be hard to cut costs while maintaining fa-

## Elon elects

*In 2015, SGA looks to boost involvement and voter turnout*

Caroline Fernandez  
News Editor

The 2015 Elon University SGA Elections listed only five candidates for the four 2015-2016 executive positions.

The position of executive president was the only contested spot, with juniors Avery Steadman and Sean Barry running against each other. The positions of executive vice president (Adam Knaszak '16), executive treasurer (Leo Morgan '16) and executive secretary (Grace McDavid '16) remained unopposed.

The lack of candidates left many questions about why more students were not running for executive positions.

SGA candidates and members attributed the lack of students running for office to the large time commitment SGA requires.

Many times, the time commitment interferes with students who want to study abroad. To have an executive position — executive president, executive vice president, executive treasurer, executive secretary — a student needs to be on campus for three semesters because the terms run from April to April.

"A lot of students who are sophomores now and would be excellent candidates on Exec are studying abroad," said current executive treasurer and executive presidential candidate Avery Steadman. "It's a huge thing we have to give up to have a position."

Current organizational development member and Love School of Business Academic Council candidate Alex Hunter said she thinks people get intimidated by the competition.

"I think SGA is a very prestigious position on campus and I think a lot of people get nervous," Hunter said. "I think the competition aspect scares people away. We need to address that there are seats open and it is open to everyone. I think that people think that so many people are running so their chances [of winning] are lower."

Another trend with SGA elections is low voter turnouts.

The number of students who took to the polls in 2014 de-