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Students prepare for Elonthon, a 24-hour dance marathon. pg. 7

**Impact of new public transportation system:** Burlington residents given more access to and from work. pg. 4

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# THE PENDULUM

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## Neil deGrasse Tyson to headline Spring Convocation



Lauren Phillips  
Assistant Style Editor

A line of Elon University faculty, staff, students and community members coiled through the Center for the Arts lobby. As they waited for the box office's two windows to open, they were unaware that most of them wouldn't receive tickets to Elon's 2015 Spring Convocation.

At 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, tickets to Spring Convocation became available at the box office. They were sold out within 30 minutes.

"They sold out faster than anything else," said Joan Dawson, program assistant for cultural programs.

One man caused this overwhelming demand for tickets: astrophysicist, author, TV personality and general science superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson. Tyson will visit Elon Thursday and serve as the keynote speaker for this year's Spring Convocation: "The Sky is Not the Limit."

Tyson is well known in the science community, but he also has a wide appeal that compelled faculty and students to fill all of the approximately 2,200 spaces available in Alumni Gym.

"It's great to see such a broad interest in this guy," said Tony Crider, associate professor of physics. "Unlike some occasions when you might bring a science speaker to campus, our job isn't to bring students there — it's to keep students out."

The high level of interest didn't surprise Crider.

"He's as close as you get to a rockstar in science," he said. "The day they announced he was coming to campus,

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## Campus security creates phone app

*Students can download app for own safety and to report tips*

Katy Canada  
Senior Reporter

Elon University's Campus Safety and Police launched LiveSafe, a smart-phone safety application, on March 30.

Campus Safety and Police has been working since November to bring a safety app to Elon. LiveSafe cost the university around \$11,000, Director of Campus Safety and Police Dennis Franks said, but it was an investment in safety.

"I think you can't put a price tag on safety," he said. "We enjoy a low crime rate, but you don't want to take it for granted."

Users who download LiveSafe will first be prompted to create an account. Then, they can report a tip, dial an emergency phone number or view a map that shows where each blue light on campus is located.

Safe Walk — another feature of the app — provides the location of students walking alone a virtual buddy system that allows other users to track on a map.

Through LiveSafe, users can also contact Safe Rides, Elon's designated driver program, E-Rides, another transportation service on campus, and Safe Line, a phone line for reporting incidents of bias.

"Probably 99 percent of our students have a smart device," Franks said. "What better way to help build our community relations?"

Junior Kerianne Durkin said she would take advantage of the app even though she considers Elon a safe campus.

## Phoenix starts spring football practice

Tommy Hamzik  
Managing Editor

There's a great deal of mutual understanding between the players and coaches as the Elon University football team begins spring practice.

After spending last spring adjusting to new head coach Rich Skrosky and his staff and schemes, the Phoenix knows what to expect during its '15 practices this month, the first of which was held Monday.

Skrosky described that familiarity through a sequence where senior running back Tracey Coppedge provided

some direction to freshman running back Nick Theos, who transferred to Elon in the winter.

Coppedge pulled Theos aside, telling him where their group was heading next.

"They couldn't do that a year ago," Skrosky said. "We've established some culture, some protocol."

Elon will have a revamped roster in 2015 after a number of departures during the off-season. Backup quarterback John Loughery transferred to Temple University, and starting offensive lineman Thomas McGuire will graduate in May, and head to Division II

Minnesota State University, Mankato for his last year of eligibility.

Also gone is wide receiver Andre Davis (48 catches, 424 yards in 2014) and defensive lineman Robert Davis. Wide receiver Justin Osborne was dismissed from the team for a violation of team rules.

So there are still some adjustments to be made.

The biggest question surrounding the Phoenix, which went 1-11 last year in its inaugural season in the Colonial Athletic Association, is the quarterback position. Mike Quinn, who started all 12 games last year, graduat-

dispatcher on duty. Users may also report tips anonymously.

While the app covers topics such as campus safety and incidents, a section for students to file statements of hazing incidences is not included.

Currently, there is no category for students to report hazing, but Franks said students can relay that kind of activity through the "other" category and provide a description. He said Campus Safety and Police will look into adding hazing to the list of options.

To urge students to download the app, Campus Safety and Police issued a scavenger hunt from March 30 to April 2 that sent students searching for images of the Elon Phoenix across campus. Students who submitted photos of the phoenix to Campus Security through LiveSafe were entered to win a daily drawing for two \$100 Target Gift Cards, an iPad Mini and a parking spot in the McMichael parking lot.

Though Franks said there hasn't been a jump in crime rates to warrant additional precautions, Campus Safety and Police has taken several measures to increase security in the past year, including installing additional blue lights on campus and purchasing body cameras for officers to wear when they are on duty.

Freshman Cailin Jalynski said the app is a worthwhile addition to campus security because some of the current safety measures aren't always readily available.

"The blue lights aren't everywhere, and if you just need something instantly then [the app] is a good way to have it," Jalynski said. "I think just improving security and options for people is always good."

ed, and Loughery would have been in the conversation if he hadn't transferred.

So that leaves two candidates, neither of whom have taken a snap at Elon — redshirt freshman Connor Christiansen and incoming freshman Daniel Thompson.

"Connor has some comfortability about him because he's been through it," Skrosky said. "Daniel is a real competitive kid, and he's got a real composure about him. Every day, I'm excited when I come in and see those guys. They

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