

People

Re-entering school at 50 brings mixed blessings

By Maureen Sweeney
Features Editor

In the age of the "emerging woman," Gregg Pappendick is truly one to be admired.

At 50, Pappendick is completing her final semesters of undergraduate study and has plans to enter graduate school within next year.

When she first entered college at Wake Forest University, few women studied to become doctors; most professional women were teachers or nurses or secretaries. Pappendick began work on a history degree, not quite sure of what she would do with it.

Pappendick was not the first woman in her family faced with the problem of choosing a career from those traditionally

available to women. Her husband George used to comment, "She is one of a long line of Gregg women."

Her grandmother went to medical school at a time when women were surely not encouraged to become practicing physicians. Pappendick's mother earned a law degree at Wake Forest and became one of four women accepted into the North Carolina bar association; she was the first woman in Chatham County to become a lawyer.

When Pappendick speaks of her own life and goals, she often refers to her mother to whom she was very close. She recalled that, "My mother taught school because women didn't have a career and a family; it just wasn't accepted. She

used to tell me, she didn't want to sit in the drugstore, drink Cokes and swap recipes."

Pappendick is well on her way to becoming what her mother and grandmother have always encouraged her to be: a seeker of wisdom.

When asked why she has returned to college, Pappendick replies, "I have found out that there are no answers, and the purpose of education is to learn to ask better questions."

Pappendick has faced many hard times in the past year. Her husband was killed in January in a freak accident—only five months after the death of her mother.

Pappendick is one of the few people who knows what total freedom is, and it's scary.

"With freedom comes the sense that your hiding places have been taken away. There's no one to blame for your foul-ups," she said.

She has chosen to approach crises in a positive light—as an opportunity for growth—both of these crises have given her freedom and the chance at a different if not new start.

If one student at Elon had to be singled out for her enthusiasm, Pappendick would have a good chance at being that one. Many Elon students recognized her; "She's an older woman with gray hair," one student said.

"She's always sitting outside of the grill talking about what truth is at the top of her lungs,"

another student said.

With the latter image in mind, most people can recognize her.

She started part-time here four years ago and will graduate in May. Pappendick said, "I love it with the kids; they help keep me young. I was scared to death when I walked into my first class, but the professor made me feel comfortable and they've all made me feel special."

Gregg Pappendick is a special person; anyone who has ever met her can tell you that. She is a woman to be admired, it takes a lot of courage to return to school and embark on a new career when the competition is half your age.

Huffstetler to seek doctorate

Mellon nominee to study religion 'as historian'

By Vicky Jiggetts
Student Affairs Editor

Joel Huffstetler has been nominated for the prestigious Mellon Fellowship in Humanities. The scholarship is given to the college senior who has achieved academic success and plans to begin graduate work for a teaching career in the humanities.

Huffstetler is a history and religion major, minoring in political science. "If I receive this scholarship, I would like to attend Princeton University. My second choices are Duke and Emory," said Huffstetler. If he does not win the scholarship, he still plans to attend graduate school to pursue a master's doctorate in New Testament and Christian origins.

The nominees for the award will compete in regional competition, then from there, the national winners are chosen. After receiving the award, the recipient must "perform with distinction in graduate school in order to keep the scholarship," said Huffstetler.

If he attends Princeton University, Huffstetler would like to study under Dr. Frederick Borsch, author of *The Son of Man in Myth and History* and *The Christian And Agnostic Son of Man*.

Huffstetler said, "I think that I'll be more inclined toward research than teaching. I communicate better in written form than oral, but I'm working on my verbal communication. I'll approve religion from the point of view of an historian."

Huffstetler said that he has been lucky when it comes to opportunities. "I've gotten a

few breaks along the way, and I've been surrounded by some wonderful people. I could not have done it without the help of others," he said.

Huffstetler has been on the dean's list, a member of Alpha Chi, Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Alpha

Theta and Theta Alpha Kappa. He has received an scholarship, the Rev. I.W. Johnson Scholarship, the Watterson-Troxler Scholarship, and the Basnight Award (outstanding Bible student).

He was also a tutor in the

LRC and an assistant in the Social Sciences department. He served on the student Judicial Committee, was clerk of court, and a member of the Baptist Student Union. Huffstetler is currently a resident assistant, a member of East Area Council, the Liberal Arts Forum, the Young Republicans, and is president of Pi Gamma Mu.

Dr. Robert Blake, professor of English, said that the candidates for the scholarship have to take the Graduate Record Exam and submit those results to the regional chairman. "It's a highly competitive national scholarship," said Blake. "Only the very top students here are ever nominated by the commit-

tee. The regional committee will interview the finalists before they make the selection. No Mellon Fellow will be selected without this interview."

In the past, Elon College has had at least one nominee for the Rhodes Scholar. However, there is not Rhodes nominee this year, Blake said, because there were not any students who excelled in both academics and athletics. Blake said, "The Rhodes is a highly competitive scholarship. The application itself is very long and extensive." He said that his committee nominate students who have a good chance of winning the scholarship.

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