

# New measures taken to restrict smoking near McEwen

*Second-hand smoke cited as main reason for school's action*

**Raymond Beadnell Jr.**

Reporter

Finding a place to finish a cigarette before class has gotten a bit more difficult. Signs have been placed outside the School of Communications instructing smokers to stay at least 30 feet from the door. According to the Elon student handbook, smoking within 30 feet of any building on campus is prohibited, but the School of Communications is the only building to enforce the rule with signs.

The new signs were placed after many faculty members complained about the smokers congregating in front of the door and taking up most of the space on the porch in front of McEwen. Last week, the small, brown, wall-mounted signs were replaced by large white signs along the walkway and two more at the front of the building. However, the signs' effectiveness is limited, as the handbook provides no clear definition of how to prosecute

those in violation of the smoking rule. Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of students, said the administration hopes the students can address the problem themselves without having to be threatened with a ticket or other sanction.

According to Jackson, smoking has long been a concern of Elon faculty and staff. Three years ago, Elon administrators, faculty and students met to determine the main concern of students on campus. Jackson said many participants expressed concern about second-hand smoke. Rather than making Elon a smoke-free campus, the council decided to make a rule stating there would be no smoking within 30 feet of any university structure.

However, not all students had a problem with the smokers standing by doorways, trying to finish their cigarettes before or after class.

"Most smokers at Elon are very courteous when it comes to their habit. I'm against the school allowing smoking in any of the buildings, but I don't care if people want to smoke outside," said junior Matt Swope.

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Matt Belanger / Photographer

These signs, placed outside of McEwen each day, remind students that the student handbook prohibits them from smoking within 30 feet of the entrance to any academic building on campus.

# Elon taking steps toward possible Phi Beta Kappa accreditation in 2007

**Rachel Abbott**

Reporter

Elon has been pursuing accreditation for a Phi Beta Kappa chapter to start in 2007 since submitting an application in November.

A Phi Beta Kappa chapter would honor Elon for excellence in the school of arts and sciences. It is the nation's oldest and largest academic honor society. The goal of Phi Beta Kappa is to support the ideals of the society through social, academic and community programs.

Elon previously applied for accreditation in 2000, but did not make the cut. After waiting the mandatory three years, Elon reapplied in November 2003. The application explained Elon's accomplishments and history. The growth Elon has experienced and its annual recognition from the National Survey of Student Engagement were highlighted on the application.

Elon will be notified in April if it makes the first cut. An Elon committee comprised of English professor Russell Gill, Steven House, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Helen Walter, financial planning assistant, would then send additional information and host a visit from Phi

Beta Kappa officials.

There are 270 Phi Beta Kappa chapters nation-wide, including eight new chapters added this year. The organization began in the late 1700s at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Yale University was the next school to establish a chapter.

If Elon obtains a chapter, students who have completed 95 credit hours in arts and sciences would be invited. Juniors would need a GPA of 3.7 and seniors would be required to have at least a 3.5 GPA and a foreign language requirement.

Elon made a seven part plan to achieve accreditation that includes enhancing the library collection and hiring more Phi Beta Kappa faculty. The plan also called for more academic resources and increasing language and cultural experiences. Elon has aimed to increase the number of arts and science majors and attract brighter students to become honors, fellows and future graduate students.

"I think it's a good move in accrediting Elon because it gives students an option to make their degrees more valuable," said freshman Caitlin Burke.

The committee has put an

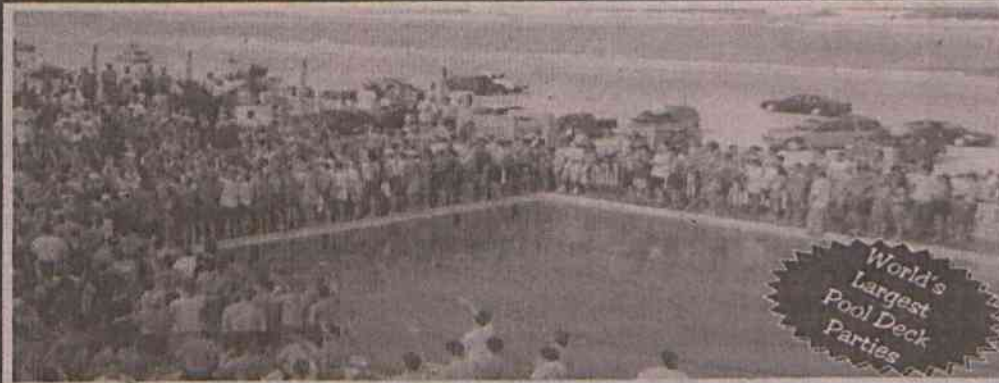
emphasis on the honors programs, according to House. "It has one of the better programs. It is really well organized and set up," Osinski said.

House indicated the committee is optimistic but emphasized that, "you don't do these things overnight." If Elon fails to obtain accreditation this

year, it will be in position in 2010.

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