

Editorial

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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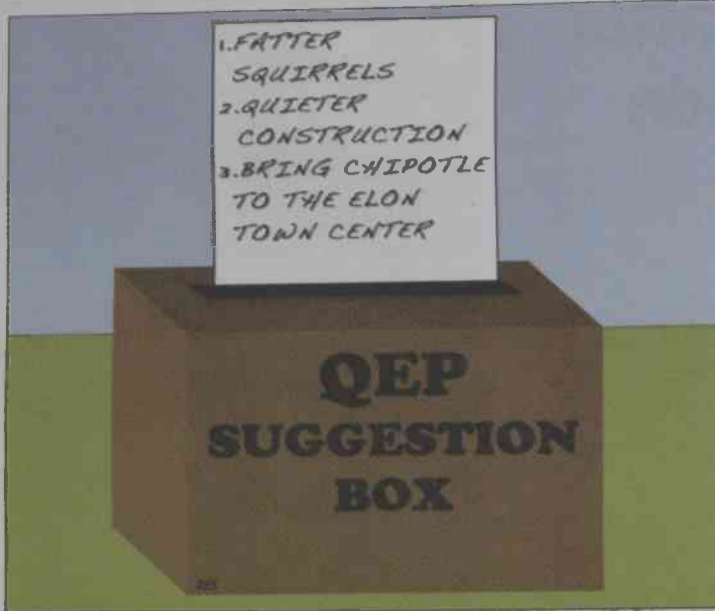
Input crucial to success of future programs

No matter how many new dining halls Elon constructs, the number of student organizations available or the variety of housing offered, there is one key facet of college life that should dictate every decision and interaction that takes place on campus—learning.

In recent months, students have been particularly vocal about activities happening on campus. Those living in West Area have expressed frustration with the noisy construction taking place in downtown Elon. Others have spoken out against the recently introduced options for meal plans next year.

Where student response has been lacking is in regard to the Quality Enhancement Plan. Elon is developing this plan in preparation for a 2013 visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the university's accrediting body.

The final QEP will be narrowed down from submitted ideas and is an initiative meant to enhance student learning. It could include anything from a required course for incoming freshmen to a mandatory experience for the senior class. This plan will redefine



RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | Opinions Editor

learning and transform the direction of Elon's campus for years to come.

Students are often quick to point out the flaws they find in educational programs. When the teacher evaluation forms are released at the end of every semester, they relish the chance to express their displeasure with a particular teacher's methods.

What is puzzling, then,

is the lack of response when given the chance to directly influence the current learning model on campus. Sharing an idea is as easy as submitting an e-mail or filling out a slip of paper. Though only one final idea will be selected for implementation, the best ideas will be reviewed and combined, so every submission matters. Rather than taking

the easy road and complaining, students have the opportunity to use experiences and knowledge from their time as a student and put them to good use. The university administration is not creating this initiative and then simply introducing it to the student body; they are appealing to the students for ideas and want student support throughout its development.

The committee members, professors in their own right, may have led courses on campus but have never experienced the modern Elon classroom from the other side. They are working off their assumptions and understanding of student life on campus, which many not be complete without additional student input.

As students, we should strive not only for our own personal gain in school, but for everyone to have access to great teachers, programs and resources. It's about taking what works and sharing it to make the student experience better for everyone on campus. It's time to show the university administration that students care about their learning and are striving to make it even better.

There's a whole world beyond these brick walls

Elon University exists as a little entity unto itself. There are places to eat, sleep, socialize and even shop. And while that is all well and good, every now and again, we have to look outside of the bubble and realize that there is a big world out there, and it isn't always pretty. But it does us no good to live like ostriches with our heads buried in acorn-covered sands.

When a major world event happens, we at The Pendulum try to balance what we feel is a need to inform and educate the public with the specific needs of our target audience: members of the Elon community.

When protests broke out in Tunisia and then Egypt, we provided coverage of students and faculty directly impacted by these events. In 2010, we ran stories about the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, supplemented with material written by

students who happened to be there at the time or had a personal connection to the tragedies.

And this week, we bring you the story of the disaster in Japan.

As of now, the number of people dead is still unknown. No monetary amount has been placed on the damages yet, and there really can't be a figure assigned to the value of the countless homes, families and lives destroyed.

But that's all "over there," right? It doesn't affect us here in school.

Wrong.

There are three Elon students in Japan right now, witnessing the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear fallout. Elon Sophomore Junko Aoyama, an international student from Japan, who knows people directly affected by the disasters, was kind

enough to share her story with us and illustrate her feelings through a cartoon.

The Earth's axis has shifted more than four inches, Japan's coastline slid more than eight feet and the length of the day has been shortened by almost two microseconds.

This tragedy isn't limited to a nation of islands thousands of miles from North Carolina. Its scope is gigantic.

Give money, give blood, give other forms of physical support but most of all, give a damn.

We may live in a bubble, but we cannot forget the world that exists and spins all around us. We cannot forget that first and foremost, before we are residents of Elon or our home states or the U.S., we are members of the global community. And it is our duty to step up and help our fellow citizens of the world.

MORE ONLINE: OPINIONS

We're halfway through the semester! See how well five Pendulum staffers are sticking to their resolutions at: pendulumresolutions.wordpress.com

There's so much going on that we can't contain it all in one newspaper section. Check out more at: www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com

TO COMMENT ...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or less can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the editor and columns can be e-mailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244. Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Recently, Elon announced its latest group of tenured professors. Receiving tenure at Elon is the goal of every professor on that track, as it solidifies job security and symbolizes the pinnacle of a career.

I read the list of names and was pleasantly surprised to see several black professors on that list. I am interested in the progression of Elon's number of tenured black professors because freshman year, I helped lead a movement to highlight the lack of black tenured professors at Elon. Black professors serve as mentors on campus, and provide invaluable support for black students.

I applaud Elon for their efforts in increasing diversity, but I am still jaded: Elon shouldn't have been in this position to begin with. During my matriculation, Elon did not tenure two black professors who were outstanding and highly regarded by their students: Dr. Ocek Eke and Dr. Norris Gunby. I still feel the pain of seeing those professors' lives turned upside down by losing the teaching positions they worked so hard for.

Elon's number one goal in

its strategic plan is to increase diversity, and that is slowly occurring. But what if this goal had been present all along? Would Dr. Eke and Dr. Gunby be tenured?

Having diverse professors is paramount to Elon becoming better. Diverse backgrounds are part of what makes a great community. Currently, there are not any black male professors tenured in the School of Business. This fact affects me especially because I am a marketing major.

There is still a large disparity in the number of tenured black professors, but Elon has a chance to continue to change for the better. Also, the newly tenured black professors have a chance to continue to show the school their merits and talents. They will set the standard for black professors of the future.

Everyone should respect and realize the struggle Drs. Eke and Gunby faced and continue to face. Hopefully, in the future, Elon will continue to make progress and recognize the worth of diverse professors.

Trevor Wynn
Class of 2011