

Alumni Plan Mid-Winter Gathering Here Saturday

A large number of Elon College alumni is expected to return to the campus on Saturday of this week for the annual mid-winter meeting of the General Alumni Association of the college.

Plans for the alumni gathering, which will get underway with a business session in Whitley Auditorium at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon, have been formulated under the leadership of Mrs. Ruth Boyd, secretary of the association.

A special effort is being made this year to get as many of Elon's old grads back for the occasion as possible, with the Elon Booster Club backing a special attendance effort. This club, which was first formed to support the Elon athletic program, is contacting a large number of alumni and urging their attendance.

A special feature of the day's program will be a banquet session, which is to be held in the college dining hall at 6:30 o'clock, and the Booster Club is featuring a double ticket arrangement that will include both the banquet and attendance at the Elon-Catawba basketball game that is set for the alumni Memorial Gymnasium at 8 o'clock.

The business session Saturday afternoon will feature a report from President Leon E. Smith on the plans for the two new dormitories and the new dining hall that are to be erected this year. The alumni will also hear reports from other phases of college activity and will hear nominations for the alumni officers, who are to be elected this year.

Elon Profs Receive Aids In Research

Dr. H. H. Cunningham and Dr. Paul Cheek, members of the Elon College faculty in the fields of history and chemistry, have recently been voted financial grants-in-aid by interested organizations, the purpose being to assist the men in research in their respective fields.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy, at the organization's annual convention in Roanoke, Va., voted to Dr. Cunningham a \$500 grant-in-aid, which is to assist him in the publication of his research findings concerning medical service in the Confederate States of America. They also invited Dr. Cunningham to speak on the subject at the next U.D.C. convention in San Antonio, Texas.

The North Carolina Academy of Science has just notified Dr. Cheek that he is to receive a cash grant of \$95 to be used in the purchase of materials for a research project that involves preparation of fluoro derivatives of phenoxyacetic acid. Dr. Cheek, who has been working on this project for some time, states that such compounds have interesting effects in the regulation of plant growth.

Dramatic Group Adds Members

Two new members were added to the Elon College chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, national dramatic fraternity, at the final meeting prior to Christmas holidays. Membership in the group is earned by work in student stage shows, either as actors or backstage workers.

Most recent additions to the group are Ann Stoddard, of Waintree, Mass., and Margaret Harpe, of Bear Creek, each of whom has appeared in a number of shows during their campus careers.

STUDENT DISPLAYS TROPHY OF HOLIDAY TRIP



Making like a snake charmer above is Dave Hardy, Elon College student from Baltimore, Md., with one of the Cuban boas that were taken by him a field trip companion during a Christmas vacation jaunt to Cuba. The snake pictured in such a clumsy pose with Hardy is only one of more than twenty such specimens that were brought back to the campus at the end of the trip. Also pictured on the table is part of the equipment which the Elon student and his companion carried with them on the Brin-Em-Back-Alive expedition.

Annual High School Day Is Set For February 16

Winter Meet Of Trustees Next Tuesday

The board of trustees of Elon College will hold its annual mid-winter meeting on the campus next Tuesday, January 18th, according to an announcement from President Leon E. Smith, who stated that a majority of the trustees are expected to be in attendance for the session.

The meeting, which will be held in the office of President Smith, will get underway at 10 o'clock that morning and will continue through an afternoon session. The trustees will be the guests of the college at a luncheon, which will be served at noon that day.

Important items on the agenda for the annual mid-year gathering will include reports from the president and business manager and also reports from the trustees committees on faculty and budget. Also to be considered are plans for the two new dormitories and the new dining hall, which are slated for construction this year.

The sixth annual "High School Day" on the Elon College campus has been set for Wednesday, February 16th, according to preliminary plans laid at a meeting of a faculty committee held on Monday. The committee session, presided over by Field Secretary Roger Gibbs, planned to begin promotional activities at once, with letters, cards and posters to go out within a few days to more than 300 high schools, most of the schools being located in North Carolina and Virginia.

The annual high school program will for the third straight year feature a scholarship contest, with boys and girls from various high schools competing for eight free scholarships, with a total value of \$4,400. The scholarships will be open to both boys and girls.

The scholarship awards will include top awards of \$1,000 for the winning boy and girl, with two second place awards in the amount of \$600 each, two third-place awards of \$400, and two fourth-place awards of \$200 each.

The annual "High School Day" was inaugurated on the Elon campus in 1950, with 43 schools sending delegations of high school seniors. The number of schools represented has grown constantly since that time. The 1951 event drew groups from 61 schools, and the 1952 observance had 62 schools, and the 1953 observance had 62 schools represented. In 1953 there were 69 different schools sending senior delegations, and last year saw 75 schools with seniors in attendance.

The contestants for the eight scholarships will come to Elon on Monday, February 14th, and on that day they will compete in a series of tests that will determine the winners in both the boys' and girls' decisions. The contestants will then return with their own senior groups on Wednesday, and the winners will be announced during the regular "High School Day" event.

Dean Danieley Finds Paper In Demand

Dr. J. Earl Danieley, dean of students at Elon College, who recently had a research paper on liquid-liquid extraction apparatus published in the Journal of Chemical Education, has been receiving requests for reprints of the article from all parts of the world.

The article, entitled "A Continuous Liquid-Liquid Extraction Apparatus," describes an easy method of constructing such an apparatus for use in the school college or industrial laboratory.

Dr. Danieley has already mailed reprints of the material to points in six states, including California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Illinois, and has filled foreign requests from Spain, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Mexico.

Five Graduated In Fall Quarter

Five students completed requirements for graduation at the end of the Fall Quarter, according to an announcement from the office of Miss Hazel Walker, college registrar. The five will receive their diplomas and degrees at the regular 1955 commencement late in May.

Those who completed their work at Thanksgiving included Douglas Edwards, Middleboro, Mass.; Eugene McDaniel, Kingston; Jack Mitchell, Lyndhurst, N. J.; Raynard Nance, Reidsville; and Leon Taylor, Thomasville, Ga.

Night School Opens New Term Soon

The Elon Evening School, which operates under the semester system rather than by the quarter schedule, will begin its second semester on Monday night, January 24th, and new students may enroll at that time.

In announcing the opening of a new series of classes, Field Secretary Roger Gibbs pointed out that new students should file their applications immediately in order to have their transcripts on file before the registration on the opening night of the new term. He also pointed out that a student may enroll for five nights each week or elect a part-time schedule of less than five nights.

An attractive schedule of courses is to be offered, including business law, chemistry, education, English grammar and literature, French German, home economics, mathematics, psychology, physical education, public finance, religion, Spanish and typing.

It's A New Way To Spend Christmas Holidays . . .

Try Taking Boa Constrictors With Bare Hands

By DAVE HARDY

Going to Cuba in quest of biological specimens and material for scientific articles. Bill Batts and I left Key West, Fla., by boat on December 9th, enroute to Cardenas, Cuba. The water was a bit rough, and Bill became quite seasick in spite of doses of preventive pills.

Upon arrival in Cuba we took Bill's car on the Central Highway, which took us to the Atkins Gardens and Research Laboratory. This laboratory is operated by Harvard University. Here we met and studied with Dr. Albert Swartz, who is from the Charleston Museum in South Carolina.

We slept in jungle hammocks and sleeping bags, and we also cooked our own meals for ten days here. The other nights we stayed in a cheap hotel. The beds were supplied with mosquito nets, since malaria is prevalent in this area. Cuban foods consist of king fish, red snapper, squid with rice, lobster, Cuban coffee, and a delicious drink made of sugar cane and lemon.

Bill and I visited Cardenas, Mantanzas, Havana, Cienfuegos, Soledad, and Trinidad. Cuba's countryside is quite beautiful, with palm forests, deep and clear rivers, mountain ranges, and cane plantations. There are caves everywhere, due to limestone formations underground.

CUBANS ARE FRIENDLY

The Cuban people are very friendly and interested in Americans. Havana is an interesting metropolis, being the capital, the largest city, and chief port of Cuba. It is a noisy place, with lively night-life and many tourists.

The roads, with the exception of the Central Highway, are very poor, making driving difficult. There are only a few traffic laws, and those that they do have are variable. The Cuban drivers themselves are daring and dangerous. Gasoline only costs 90c a gallon!

This was my second trip to Cuba since I entered Elon College. In 1948, Yono Mork, an Elon student at that time, went with me on a trip in the same section that Batts and I visited.

The greatest difficulty we met

was the language barrier, and it was actually more fun than trouble. We found that we could converse very well with sign language. On one occasion it took us an hour of sign language to put across to the natives that we wanted to buy alcohol. We thought we'd never get over to them the chemical formula.

FOUND IN A CAVE

One of the best locations, where we had some significant finds, was a cave near Trinidad. The cave was at least 100-yards long, with various chambers, holes, and passage ways. We saw some beautiful stalagmites. The temperature varied from 90 to 100 degrees. Millions of tropical roaches, which made a cracking sound as they moved, were found on the floor of the cave.

Land crabs hid in the cracks and crevices where we hunted our biggest Cuban boas. There was also a species of click beetle living in the cave, with two liminescent blue spots that shined in the dark like giant eyes.

The caves were also inhabited by a huge long-legged, long-necked bird, which came squaking from her roost as we entered the cave. Many rats and frogs were found deep in the cavern.

We caught twenty-four boas, ranging from five to eight feet in length. This is a species of boa that may attain the length of twelve feet. The first boa, caught by Batts at Soledad, was found crossing the road. The remainder, however, were caught in the cave near Trinidad. This cave was called "The Cave of the Boas" and was feared by the local natives. We visited it five times in all, three visits being at night. To get to the cave, we had to walk a mile through tropical scrub forests in the foothills of the Trinidad Mountains.

The boas were caught on three different trips at night or just after dark. At this particular time, they feed on bats which fly out of the cave by the thousands. Ours was the first actual record of boas feeding on bats.

SNAKES CAUGHT BY HAND

The snakes were all caught by hand, and usually spotted out in

EDITOR'S NOTE

This interesting account of experiences during a recent biological trip to Cuba is told first-hand, for Dave Hardy has just returned to the Elon campus after spending twenty-two days on an expedition in quest of specimens for Elon College, N. C. State College and the United States National Museum in Washington, D. C. He and his companion brought back a number of Cuban boas and other specimens, which have been viewed by many students in the Elon Biology Department.)

the open by our miner light. Twice we caught two at the same time, holding one head in each hand. Sometimes the snakes were found in crevices, into which we thrust our arms to see what could be found. This resulted in several snake-bites. Snakes of this type have tremendous strength, and both of us worked for a long period in an effort to get one boa, which had wedged itself behind a rock. The snake would not release the short wedge that he had behind the rock, and we thought we would never get him loose.

I have hunted snakes for years, collecting in Europe, North Africa, and in both eastern and southwestern United States, and I must say that this was one of the most successful trips.

We both experienced minor injuries, including boa bites, various cuts and bruises, and several bumps on our heads from crawling through narrow passages. Coming in from the field one night we found our sleeping equipment rainsoaked, which resulted in a miserable night.

Several types of ground boas were also added to our collection. These were brightly colored little snakes, which are never more than twenty inches in length, yet they are true boas. Other snakes among our findings were the jubos, a snake similar to the American blacksnake, although the have brighter markings. Laboratory research may prove the jubos mildly poisonous, for they have tiny fangs

in the rear of the jaw. We plan to sell the boas to various zoos and snake farms in the United States. The Philadelphia Zoo wrote us recently and asked for three of our catch. Three snakes have been sent, weighing approximately 50 pounds.

CHAMELEONS TOO

Chameleons are numerous, along with a large number of lizards found on the island. We collected many and purchased others from kids, who brought them by the dozens to our hotel each night. This type of lizard is the most common in Cuba, and being marked by its changes of color, according to the mood of the animal or surrounding conditions.

Another member of the lizard family is the curl-tailed lizard. This reptile is large, with a lemon yellow tail that curls over its back as it runs on the sand. They are found on the beaches and are extremely difficult to catch.

The Cuban geckos is an extremely rare lizard, with padded feet somewhat similar to a tree frog. These lizards were found by Bill and me around the entrances of two caves. The small of two caves. The small ground boas enjoy eating them.

One of the most unusual lizards found was the amphibaena, a rare tropical, limbless lizard, with head and tail nearly indistinguishable.

MANY TYPES OF FROGS

We found a number of different types of frogs. Among our findings was one very small species with a big name, Eleutherodactylus. They are abundant, and some are beautifully colored.

Cuba not only produces the smallest living reptiles and birds in the world, but it has the smallest living amphibian, the phyllolobe. This type of frog is rare and hard to catch, but we brought back several.

The Cuban toad is large with glaring eyes. In fact, they actually look stupid. We found this type up and down various creeks and on pond banks at night, where we also caught several boas. We also caught several tree frogs. These are palm-size, brightly colored, with great agility and capable of

hanging onto anything. The island has numerous bats and nearly three hundred birds. Among the bats caught by us were some with gigantic ears, pig faces, leaf noses and long free-tails, and the very rare and tiny mahogany-colored, inch-long bat. We caught them with nets or by picking them off the walls of the caves while they were getting a little shuteye.

HUNTING UNDER WATER

In Cuban waters one finds over seven hundred species of fish and crustaceans. We collected many different species by diving off the southern coast of Cuba in an area inhabited by moray eels, giant sea turtles, sharks, octopi and barracuda. It actually isn't as dangerous as it may sound. We used face masks and snorkel tubes and were able to stay in deep water for hours without tiring. Among our findings were sea fans, star fish, brittle stars, sea squirts, sea anemones, and a small sea worm which stung me through a thick canvas glove. Bill later wore the glove and was stung by the poison that remained in the glove. The sting is similar to the burn of acid.

Spiders, tarantulas and scorpions are prevalent all over the island. We collected one handsome tarantula which had lived in a rock crevice at our Soledad camp. We had observed him for a week before capturing him. We caught several Lutia, a mammal similar to our opossum. These animals are trapped and eaten by the natives, but the one which we caught is now at State College in Raleigh.

MET WITH CURIOSITY

Other interesting phases of our trip took place at various places. We were continually mobbed by curious people at our hotel, and we were almost thrown out of the hotel when the manager saw our collection. He refused to clean our room and make our beds. On another occasion, we were stopped by three amazed policemen in one night.

Speaking of policemen, we had a bit of difficulty upon arrival, having our rifle, knives, and khaki

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