

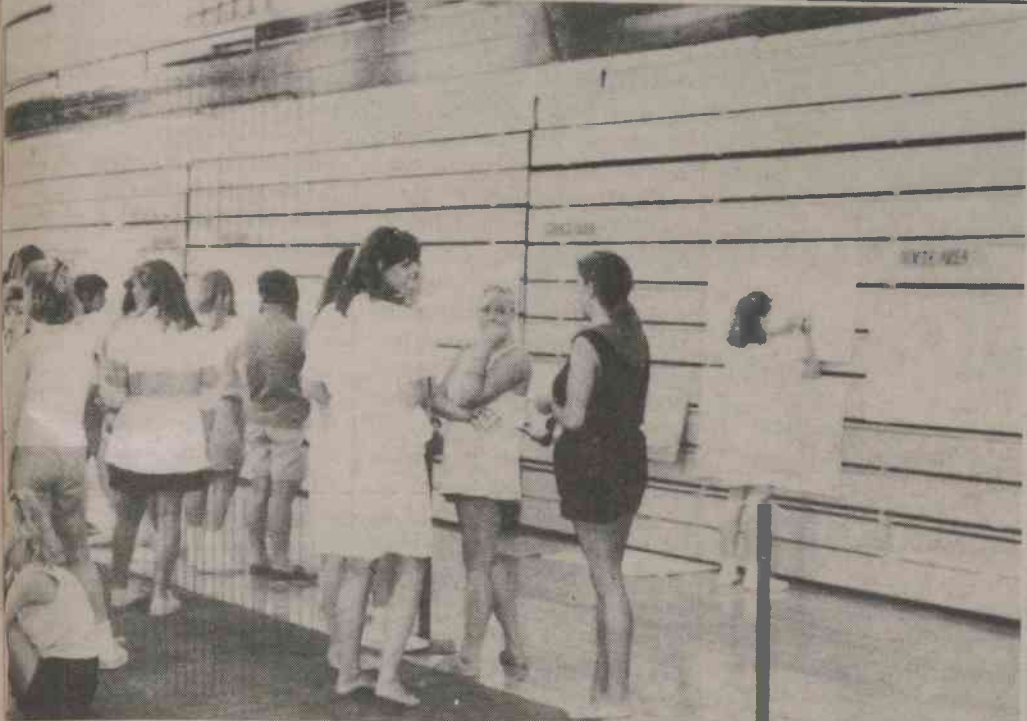
# The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

Volume XIV, No. 26

Thursday, April 28, 1988

Elon College, NC



**ANTICIPATION:** Elon coeds wait anxiously during the room selection process to get the room of their choice or the room they are stuck with.

Photo by Mindy Schneeberger

*National Teacher of the Year to speak*

## Graduation exercises planned for May 21st

by Cheryl Kern  
Staff Writer

Donna Hill Oliver, an Elon graduate of the class '72 and the 1987 National Teacher of the Year, will deliver the commencement address at Elon's 98th commencement exercises on Saturday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m.

According to the registrar's office, there are 452 possible graduates. Among those graduating will be four master of education degrees, and they will be the first ever awarded by the college.

The registrar's office expects the number of graduates to change after the spring semester grades are turned in.

There will be a commencement worship service on Tuesday, May 3 from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. in the Elon College Community Church. Dr. James Pace, the 1987 Daniels-Danieley Teacher-of-the-year recipient, will be the featured speaker. The service will focus on the relationships that developed between faculty and students. Dean Gerald Francis described the event as "a

capstone service for each group to say thanks, reflect on the past and project to the future."

On Thursday, May 19, there will be a senior picnic at the Lodge at 6:00 p.m. "Chapter '88," invites all seniors and the faculty and staff to attend the party at the Lodge.

The senior showcase will be Friday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theater. The talents and intellectual achievements of some of the brightest in the Class of '88 will be presented for the seniors and their families.

Commencement day begins early with a continental breakfast for graduating seniors and their families at 8:30 a.m. in Scott Plaza. At 10:30 a.m., the commencement exercises will begin, under the oaks south of West Hall. Following commencement there will be a reception for the graduates in Scott Plaza.

Seniors may pick up their caps, gowns, and hoods in the Campus Shop after May 3. Also in order for seniors to receive their academic regalia, they must turn in a completed "Cap and gown-Survey".

## Tackling the AIDS epidemic

by Tom Cozart  
Managing Editor

The failure of vaccines to defend the body's immune system against the AIDS virus has led scientists to begin developing new approaches in the battle against the disease.

Synthetic decoy proteins and chemical antigens are two methods that scientist in both Europe and America have been experimenting with. Decoy proteins would trick the AIDS virus from attaching itself to the unique protein that is carried by the white blood cells. This would keep the virus from attacking the cell.

The decoy idea may also help in the prevention of herpes and the common cold. Richard Flavel of Biogen Research corporation in Cambridge, Massachusetts says, "There should be many applications beyond AIDS. If the whole concept works, it's going to be relevant to all biological fields."

The method of using chemical antigens would essentially prevent the AIDS virus from manipulating the cell's genetic makeup, thus bringing the virus to a halt. Both decoy proteins and chemical antigens

have been successful in test tube experiments, but they have not been tested on AIDS patients.

A vaccine called AZT has been approved for use on AIDS patients. AZT is not a cure, but has prolonged life in some cases. The vaccine, though sometimes helpful, has also been proved to cause serious side effects.

Not all areas of research are focusing on synthetic drugs for the treatment of AIDS. Scientist at the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) laboratory in Fredrick, Maryland have been experimenting with natural products.

Moldy sweet potato and Antarctic sponge extract are among some of the 500 natural substances that are screened on a monthly basis at the NCI. The screening system introduces these natural substances to infected cells then the results are processed in a central computer and stored for further use.

Gregory Curt, Deputy Director of the NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment, says, "There are countless molds and mushrooms, for example, that have incredibly

complex structures never screened for biological activity."

The Antarctic sponge extract has shown a great deal of potential in repressing the AIDS virus. Curt also said, "It'll be a couple of years before we get any compounds into development."

Recently, researchers at the National Institute of Health failed to find positive results in a vaccine they administered to 60 volunteers. Dr. Joseph A. Kovacs of the NIH says, "I think we're just not getting a dose that's adequate in humans to induce an immune response."

Earlier testing of the vaccine proved effective in chimpanzees. Kovacs says, "You can't extrapolate directly from animals to humans. The NIH is now recruiting 15 new volunteers for further development of the vaccine."

Seven years into the AIDS epidemic, an effective treatment for the virus seems possible. Though decoy proteins are ready and waiting for approval for testing on humans, some scientist estimate that a treatment for AIDS will not surface until the end of the century.

## Social life: majority rules

by John Hoyle  
Senior Writer

There are many reasons for the declining minority enrollment at Elon. Some black students on campus cite that the social atmosphere here is centered around the majority. When prospective minority students see this, they decide to find another school.

It is true that the social atmosphere at Elon is not centered around minority students. Just like the atmosphere at predominately black colleges is not centered around the few white students there. But, Elon administrators and faculty are concerned about the opportunities and social programs

that are available for minority students.

"The faculty, in general, is concerned with the declining enrollment," said Dr. Christian Wilson of the Religion Department. "The concern about the need for more diversity in the student body has been expressed in faculty meetings. The college needs to address and resolve this problem."

Dean of Student Affairs Ron Klepcyk said, "I would like to see our minority enrollment at a steady, consistent number if possible."

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