

INSIDE

6 Students get wish. Carrot Top comes to campus this Thursday.

8 Fightin' Christians men's soccer loses to Mars Mill for the first time in Elon history.

11 Profiles on candidates for freshman class president.



REMINDER:
Mom and Dad are coming for Family Weekend!



THE PENDULUM

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Informing the Elon College Community

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Former Elon student plea bargains to 3 counts of assault on a female

Mary Kelli Bridges
Senior Reporter

GRAHAM - A former Elon College student who had faced five felony counts of sexual assault and a possible sentence of 51 years will spend no time in prison.

Under a plea agreement, Robert M. Narvaez, Setauket, N.Y., pleaded guilty Monday in Alamance County Superior Court to three misdemeanor counts of assault on a female.

"I wanted to fight it," Narvaez said Tuesday night.

Narvaez, 21, said he accepted

the plea agreement because a trial would have been expensive and because he was told that if he didn't accept the plea, another charge would be added.

Narvaez received a six-year suspended sentence, including five years of supervised probation.

He was originally charged with sexual assault of two women and attempted sexual assault of another woman.

All three women are Elon College students.

Narvaez faced a maximum 12 years for four of the charges and three years for the fifth charge,

Assistant District Attorney Ricky Champion said.

Narvaez is the first man to be charged with a sexual assault on Elon College's campus since at least 1990. Nine rapes and one attempted rape on campus have been reported to police or college officials since 1990.

Judge Orlando F. Hudson ordered Narvaez to pay reasonable medical expenses for the victims. He was ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation, counseling and substance abuse treatment.

Hudson ordered Narvaez not

See Narvaez, Page 4.

College to seek faculty with doctorate degrees for "Investing in Excellence"

Linda Findley
Reporter

Elon College recently revised its faculty requirements as part of a \$40 million plan for the institution's continuing improvement.

The plan, called the Elon Vision, is an extension of the Investing In Excellence campaign which has raised more than \$19 million. The new plan hopes to continue this achievement by improving the quality and the image of quality of an Elon education.

A strong focus for achieving this "new image" is a goal to raise the percentage of faculty members with terminal degrees in their fields.

Currently about 75 percent of Elon faculty members have the highest possible degrees in their field. The Elon Vision calls for 85-90 percent by the next century.

This increase will not only affect who the school hires, but it may also have an impact on the faculty currently employed by Elon.

"Most of the new faculty will come through replacing people who retire or leave," says Tom Tiemann, Jefferson Pilot professor of economics. "It is unlikely that anyone will get fired because of a lack of a terminal degree."

The increase is one of 17 goals of the Elon Vision. Some others include new buildings, new equipment and the recruitment of students with higher grade point averages and SAT scores.

"The strength of the faculty is the strength of the college," said Nan Perkins, dean of Admissions and Financial Planning. "When people come to the campus, they want to see a lot of Ph.D.'s and M.F.A.'s"

Most Elon Vision committee members agree that a professor with a terminal degree is not necessarily better, but on the average, they have the experience needed for teaching as well as an in-depth knowledge of their subject.

"When you get your terminal degree, you immerse yourself in your subject. You learn to peel back the layers and gain a deeper understanding," Tieman said.

A concern about Elon's drive for more highly educated professors, is what will happen to the faculty who are already here and may not have these higher degrees.

An option, said Jo Williams, vice president of Development, is for professors who are already here to gain their higher degrees now. Under some circumstances, professors can take time off to earn degrees or possibly get financial help through endowments.

The concept of improving faculty is not just an Elon concept said Clair Myers, vice president and Dean of Academic Affairs. Myers said most instructors plan on advancing their degrees, but now it becomes less of an option and more of a necessity.

"The marketplace determines a lot of what we are now looking for. When I interview people, I make sure they understand that continuing education is a part of the job," Myers said.

The marketplace that drives the change, however, is not necessarily controlled by current

See Doctorate, Page 4.



Tonya Hubart/The Pendulum

It's greek to me

Students sign up for sorority open house last Tuesday night.

Activities planned for families

Jeff Wirick
Reporter

"That's Italian" is the theme for this year's Elon Family Weekend, which takes place Friday through Sunday.

There have been several activities added to "better meet the interests of a wider variety of people," said Amanda Harless, director of Greek Life and Special Programs.

One difference this year is that family members can register at the Koury Center both Friday, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday morning. Guests and students can also tour the Koury Center throughout the day.

Friday night's entertainment is scheduled to be the Blenders. This vocal quartet, which originated in North Dakota, will be performing at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Faith Rockefeller Model Center.

Saturday's activities include a

"Picnic Under the Oaks," which is a buffet lunch by McEwen Dining Hall, Elon's second home football game of the year against defending national champions Carson-Newman at 2 p.m., an Italian meal served at the Model Center, and a Collage Concert in Yeager Recital Hall.

The Model Center will host "That's Italian," the Italian meal on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The musical ensemble, La Roma Musica, will perform for the audience during that time.

That evening the Collage Concert will be given at Yeager Hall from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students will perform dances with original choreography, present scenes from contemporary drama, and sing songs from the Broadway stage.

Several church services will be offered throughout the weekend. The Elon Gospel Choir will perform at the College Worship

See Weekend, Page 4.