

Viewpoint

Sitting around a table talking with other campus leaders last Wednesday afternoon, I found that I wasn't the only one putting at least 50 hours a week into my organization. It's good to know that I am not alone.

For every lazy, selfish, beer-thirsty, join nothing, think-of-nothing-but-myself student at Elon (and there are plenty), there are many working insane amounts of hours to make sure that Elon is the best it can be.

Elon hired an outside organization to interview students and research how Elon can sustain its competitive advantage through marketing changes. Last week myself and about 30 others made up a group of campus leaders for one of these focus groups. Definitely a group of people who had a narrow, but positive view of Elon.

These students spend many hours to make life easy for others. Believe it or not there are even editors at *The Pendulum* who are on this list.

Sometimes we are appreciated, sometimes we aren't. But day after day, we are still there, bettering ourselves and our group or groups.

That's why I salute Omicron Delta Kappa, the SGA and other organizations that honor students at the end of the year for outstanding service to the campus and community.

Winning an award is not the reason why these leaders get involved in the first place, but it's positive feedback for a job well done.

I want to thank campus leaders for their commitment and courage to put their names on the line. It's not always an easy job, but it's one that needs to be done. It's also the part of life that you'll probably remember the most when you leave Elon for the real world.

Since this is the last issue of *The Pendulum* this semester, I would like to wish students a relaxing, fun, profitable and educational summer.

• Jeff Wirick
Editor-in-Chief

It Was the Best of Times...

Two more weeks. Two more weeks until many of us will be home waiting for the full force of the summer to hit us.

Others will have graduated and will be prowling through the job market looking for a career.

And yet still others will be in school here at Elon. Doing their best with what they have.

Graduation, summer and closure. Another rotation on the wheel of life will end while another starts its long journey.

All of us will move on. In two weeks, summer will be here. Two weeks. Two weeks is how long Shawn had until graduation. But he won't be at the ceremony.

"TO: All Elon Students, Faculty and Staff

FR: Dean of Students

DT: April 29, 1997

RE: Death of a Student

On Monday, April 28, William Shawn Russell, an Elon senior, was struck by a car. He died on impact and suffered no pain."

All of us got one of these. A little sheet of paper with his name, major and hobbies. One of our classmates is dead. Some of us never got

a chance to know him. Some of us have lived right next to him for a year and still never said more than a word.

He was in our classes, we passed him on the way to work, he was our best friend. He was just like anyone else on campus. He was just like you and me.

A freak accident that no one could have any control over, and because of

Chuck Buckley
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that the world must now be deprived of what Shawn had to offer.

It could have been any of us — you, me, anybody. It's frightening to think of life being nothing more than a long game of Russian roulette, with delirious heights and knuckle-whitening lows.

We could go at any second. All it would have taken is being in the wrong place at the wrong time, like Shawn was.

It's really pathetic don't you think? An entire lifetime, four years of college, countless numbers of

friends, victories, accomplishments, challenges, everything that makes a human being a person, all of that can be summed up in three paragraphs on half a sheet of paper. It's sickening that twenty-one years of life can be justified to all of Elon by just a couple of sentences. It makes me sick. But what can you do, right?



Death is funny like that. Folks like Shawn here have friends that love him and people who will remember him. But there are others dying every day who are no less important than Shawn but will not be remembered.

The human body is so fragile. I mean all that it would take to end a life is tripping and landing wrong.

I must confess that I didn't know Shawn as well as I could have. We were both in Crossroads and he lived two doors down from me. I'm sorry that he can't live out the rest of his life.

Even though Shawn is in a better place, all of us left here must continue on. I wish all of you a safe and happy summer. I'll see you next year.



THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Speaking of...

AIDS Quilt

What impact did the AIDS Quilt have at Elon?



Jeff Myers, sophomore: "It added a somber awareness of the AIDS population and also added campus awareness on STDs."

Amanda Harding, sophomore: "It opened people's eyes to what a serious problem it is in our age group. Hopefully, it will stop the amount of casual sex."

Brad Cook, freshman: "There was not a large impact because not a lot of students took advantage of it."



Heather Lancaster, junior: "There was a tremendous impact because people could actually see the lives taken, instead of reading statistics in a book."

Heather Doss, freshman: "Hopefully it scared some people to use their minds and realize that it can happen to anyone."

Kimberly Tucker, sophomore: "It opened people's eyes to the reality of how it can happen to anybody."



Alecia Pynn, freshman: "It was really sad because it makes you realize how personal it was and how it can happen to families or anyone."

Carrie White, senior: "It was great because many people had the opportunity to see it and open their minds to the reality of the disease."

Lee Clark, junior: "It made a lot of people aware of the problems by reading the panels and it hit home."

compiled by Lisa Roark with photos by Andrew Brickey