

6 Changing Elon's fellows programs: Is mission possible?

Jason Dennis
Pendulum Reporter

Dr. Dan Wright, director of the honors program, is on a mission — he wants quality fellows at Elon College.

"If they want to be here, they'll be active. If they want to be here, they will do their best to finish. If they have to be here, they can kind of take the easy path. I want kids to push themselves," he said.

Wright is referring to students' desire to be in Elon College's fellows programs.

Wright is definitely not alone in his mission.

Susan Klopman, assistant dean of admissions, says the school is looking for students who display interest and enthusiasm from the get-go.

"We have been looking for a way to really enhance the academic tracks and separate the scholarship awarding process from the academic programs," she said.

"We want these fellows programs to rise to the top and shine on their own," she added.

So, what is happening to improve these programs?

Whether it is competition for fellows programs, more scholarship money, or lateral entry into special programs at Elon, change is evident in the fellows programs.

Incoming freshmen can now compete to become Jefferson-Pilot Business Fellows and Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows whereas previous competition consisted only for the science and honors programs.

The difference will be seen next year when approximately 20-25 freshmen are selected for each program.

"We spent the summer revising the programs, coming up with new things, new twists to our own existing programs," Wright said.

"Each of the programs has certain perks for students that may be interested," he added.

To receive those perks, high school seniors can participate in Elon Fellows Day on Friday, March 13.

It used to be called Honors Day, but now it is focusing more on all five of the fellows programs, including honors, science, Jefferson-Pilot business, Isabella Cannon leadership, and NC teaching fellows.

"On Fellows Day, we're try-

ing to showcase good aspects of each program. Hopefully, we're going to have 200-plus students on campus," Wright said.

Students who are thinking about going to Elon will get a letter from the director of a specific fellows program encouraging them to apply.

It is then up to the student to get into the program.

"Money is not the motivating factor. The academic or fellows program is the motivating factor," Klopman said. "You don't have to be a scholarship winner to get in."

Elon Fellows Day is the final competition for a place in one of the four included programs.

The NC Teaching Fellows Program are decided at a different time.

"Incoming freshmen who are nominated for the honors program and are also interested in the leadership program, they can seek competition to be in the leadership program as well," said Catherine Williams, associate director of admissions.

Currently, the Jefferson-Pilot business fellowship and Isabella Cannon leadership fellows programs are only available to upperclassmen.

However, the changes don't stop there.

Elon's merit scholarship program will now be awarding more money to incoming qualified freshmen.

Roughly, the top one-fourth of these new Elon students will receive Presidential Scholarships with monetary values of \$2,000,

\$2,500 or \$3,000.

Qualification for these general scholarships is based solely on academic achievements while in high school, which includes Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), grade point average (GPA), and demanding curriculum in high school.

Awards will be distributed upon confirmation of attending Elon.

In addition, ten more scholarships will be awarded in both the Honors and the Science Fellows programs, while two will be awarded in each of the Jefferson-Pilot Business and Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows programs.

Currently, all four of these programs are also looking closely at their procedures for lateral entry.

"Although the monetary awards are obviously not as great, these students are very interested and active in the honors program. They're interested in retreats, the class size, studying abroad, etc.," said senior and honors fellow Melissa Pace.

Back to the point Wright wants to emphasize — quality, not just quantity is wanted and needed in the honors program.

"I think the size of the honors program will probably go down a bit initially, but I think we'll get a stronger crowd. I say stronger, meaning people dedicated to the program," he said.

"Instead of having 100, maybe we'll have 80, but those 80 are going to be in the program and their admission to the program isn't tied to scholarship money," he said.

Board changes process on youth Trustee selection

The Elon College Board of Trustees has changed the selection of the youth Trustee.

The by-laws provide for the election of one youth Trustee at the annual March meeting.

The youth Trustee serves a two-year term beginning June 1.

Students graduating with the class of 1998 are now eligible for nomination as a youth Trustee.

The selection criteria include campus leadership, honors and awards and grade point average.

Nominations should be sent to the youth Trustee selection committee at 2185 Campus Box or sent via e-mail to petersos@numen.elon.edu by March 2, 1998.

The selection committee, which is composed of students, faculty and staff will select two or three finalists from the list of nominees and present those names to the membership committee of the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Greek Briefs

PHC • We would like to congratulate all seven sororities on a successful rush!

ΣK • We would like to congratulate our new members. We are very pleased with the results of our first formal rush at Elon. Also, thank you to Heather McAuliffe, our rush chair, and to the day chairs. Congratulations to all the other sororities on a successful rush.

ΣΣΣ • The sisters of ΣΣΣ would like to congratulate all our 36 new members. Thank you

Leigh Sweeney and Brooke McAlees for an awesome job as rush chairs. Congratulations to all other sororities on their new member classes.

AKA • We would like to thank everyone for participating in this week's activities co-sponsored with Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity which commemorated Black History Month. We would like to announce a rush meeting on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. at the AKA house. Please bring a letter of interest, an official transcript in a sealed envelope.

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