

New freshmen class improving standards

Giselle Pole
Features Editor

Next year's freshmen class seem to have an even higher academic profile than last year's, said Nan Perkins, dean of admissions and financial planning.

The Office of Admissions received 3,000 applicants for the 1998-99 school year, a 4 percent increase from last year and a 20 percent increase from two years ago.

Perkins gave several reasons for the increase in applicants.

"The word is spreading about Elon," she said. "There is excitement about our new programs and new facilities."

The new class's SAT average is up by about 13 points.

"The class itself will have a score above 1090," Perkins said. "This is an even brighter class than last year's."

There has been an increase in applicants from areas such as Ohio, New England and South Carolina.

The deadline for applications was Feb 15; those continuing to apply are being told that spaces are filled.

"Three thousand applicants are as many as we can accept in order to enroll 950 new students," Perkins said.

The decision to accept 950 students comes from the senior administrators of the College. Sev-

eral factors are taken into consideration, such as the number of graduates, the retention of the remaining students and the budget demands. The administration then sets a number on which the Office of Admissions adheres to.

Many students who were accepted to Elon and paid their enrollment deposit were at Elon for Admissions Weekend, which was March 13-15.

"The weekend was extremely successful," said Susan Klopman, assistant director of admissions. "There were many spaces that filled up quickly, but everyone handled it well," she said.

In addition to the Admissions Weekend, 225 students were on campus on Friday competing for spaces in the Fellows Programs. They attended seminars and sessions led by faculty and learned more about the Honors, Science, Isabella Cannon Leaders and Jefferson-Pilot Programs.

Students who were here for Admissions Weekend were given campus tours, received advice on how to survive in college (for parents and students), pre-selected classes for next year and attended special sessions on the Elon Experiences Programs.

Heather Baldwin, an admissions counselor, said there were a record number of 525 students here for the weekend, and close to 1400 students and families on campus in total.

Safe Rides still going strong

Leann Alfred
Pendulum Reporter

Safe Rides, the weekend car pooling service for students, is seeking more volunteers to match the accelerating demand of students needing rides.

Brian McDonald, the new coordinator of Safe Rides, said that an increasing number of students are using Safe Rides.

During the fall semester, Safe Rides picked up as many as 240 students in one night.

Safe Rides runs on Thursday nights from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

The average number of rides on a Thursday night is 50 to 100 people.

The pace picks up on Friday and Saturday when Safe Rides answers about 225 calls.

An average of one person per minute gets picked up in the four hours Safe Rides runs.

McDonald said the program wasn't running as smooth as it could be last semester when he was a volunteer driver.

"I saw in my mind things that could be changed to run more efficiently," McDonald said, "that is why I took this leadership position."

Some students tend to get up-

set if there is a long wait to be picked up.

"It gets rough when it's a Saturday night with only one car," he said.

On several occasions during the fall, Safe Rides was unable to run because of the lack of volunteers.

So far, Safe Rides has run every night this semester McDonald said.

Leigh Wheeler, assistant coordinator, said, "We need to run every weekend because the students depend on us."

Safe Rides purchased a fourth radio this spring semester to allow a third car to be used in the future if there is enough participation to do so, McDonald said.

It takes at least six people to run the Safe Rides operation.

Two people are dispatchers, one of whom is the captain who oversees Safe Rides for a specific night.

Two drivers and two passengers are needed as well.

Both a female and a male must be in each the cars for safety reasons.

Safe Rides needs more volunteers to have a third car running Thursday through Saturday.

More students are taking advantage of Safe Rides rather than choosing to drive themselves McDonald said.

Safe Rides could pick up additional students within a shorter amount of time with a third car and more participation.

Safe Rides is recruiting dispatchers who receive the incoming phone calls and also drivers.

Students interested in signing up can call the EV! office at x2102 or send an email to saferide@numen.elon.

Students are reminded that volunteering for Safe Rides fulfills the Experiential Learning Requirement if they complete 40 service hours.

"I would like to see a more diverse group of students volunteering instead of seeing the same old faces," Wheeler said.

Safe Rides currently has a core volunteer list of 120 names of people who have volunteered at least one night.

"So many people use Safe Rides that I would like to see those students volunteer every once in awhile," Wheeler said.

Safe Rides has pushed their public relations this semester, trying to recruit more volunteers McDonald said. They sent out letters to about 3600 students two weeks ago. Safe Rides has also set up a billboard in the Moseley center and advertised on the Information Channel.

"We can only make this successful with the volunteers' help," McDonald said.

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