

Viewpoint

The world is a funny place.

We enter into the halls of collegiate academia with preconceived notions that the "education" we'll garner will come from books, countless tests, and the intense scholastic pressure put upon us by our professors.

We venture through four years of worries: researching, reading, writing, brainstorming, typing, interviewing and such. Purposefully we endure high-level stress bearing in mind that in the end, upon joining the workforce, we'll have a "leg up" on the competition.

Little do we realize that the education we obtain comes from the struggle — that in pushing oneself, molding and reworking our mindsets, and finding everyday usage in knowledge we become wise.

We have had the distinct pleasure of working with two very unique individuals, each of whom have brought singularly momentous talents to the workings of *The Pendulum*.

Andrew Brickey, a man whose passion for photography is truly unmatched, has come to play a role not unlike the reference materials that dwell on our shelves. Frequently we head to him for questions regarding a broad range of topics. Although he may not take every picture, Brickey has had a great deal to do with *The Pendulum's* sharp, vibrant photos in every issue. To him, every photo is a reflection of his work and himself. After three years as both photographer and Chief Photographer, he most nobly accepted a position as Art Director this year, one of mentoring. Off to graduate school, Brickey brings with him an undisputed flair for film in which we collectively hold great faith.

Jeff Wirick, our fearless former Editor in Chief, has spent more than his fair share of time here in the office. His consummate dedication to quality and content spawned many creative ideas (like the implementation of F.Y.I.) and inspired many staffers to pay such rigid attention to detail. While we joke that Wirick's *Pendulum* worked because his "government" governed least, one thing is for sure, Wirick played a pivotal role in the leadership of our little paper. Most recently, he has accepted a position at the Kinston Free Press where he eagerly awaits the chance to pursue his dream of becoming a sports writer.

It's always hard to part with people or an experience no matter what the terms. In the end, it's letting go of the past and applying what we've learned that will assure us growth in the bold future that is to come.

• *The Pendulum* editorial staff

A eulogy for this year's frosh

Here lies the remains of my freshman year at Elon College.

It's not a pretty sight, this pile of half-forgotten facts and figures, memories, friendships made and lost, burned-out passions and ideals, both slightly cracked and completely demolished. Frankly, it's starting to stink.

But I wouldn't trade the experience for anything in the world.

Okay, so I'm technically no longer a freshman, but extra credit hours or not, I'm still a first year student.

These past nine months were a cacophony of experiences, both exciting and painful, fun and excruciating, educational and utterly brainless.

Our first year in college has come to mean so many things, profound and inane, that it's hard to sort out what really had an effect.

I don't know about you, but college for me has been about late nights and far too many early mornings.

It's been about watching "South Park" and "Monday Nitro" and having conversations which consist of nothing but the word "dude."

It's about having some of the most intelligent and thought-provoking conversations through e-mail or instant messages.

It's about finding a second home in a friend's room. Their couch

becomes your second bed, their computers and Playstations a constant source of amusement, and just being in their presence is a daily drug that you cannot do without.

It's about laughing with your roommate over a favorite rerun of Seinfeld and reaching the point where nothing, save toothbrushes and underoos, is sacred or taboo between you.

Carrie Lancos

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It's about the daily decision about class. Is your bed just too warm and comfy, or is your grade worth showering for? At last it is your own decision... and no one cares if you wear your grimy Elon sweatshirt and the Umbros you slept in to class, so long as you're wearing deodorant.

It's about fending off a ravenous hoard of ungodly mildew creeping up your shower stall with little more than a dusty spray bottle of Tilex and the ripe-smelling towel you found on the floor of your closet.

It's about playing a sloppy game of Ultimate Frisbee in the mud with a bunch of frat guys at midnight and wondering if you'll ever get that biology paper written.

It's about going to sleep in someone's arms and wondering if you or someone else will be there tomorrow night or if this is the "real thing."

College is about discovering everything you can: about yourself and your friends, about life and love.

So what has your first year been like? What memories will you carry with you? In truth, it doesn't really matter.

We have three more years of college. Three more years of facts and friends to accumulate, papers to write, classes to pass and seniors to bid adieu. Then we ourselves will pass into this college's collective memory on our way to creating our new lives and new identities.

Yes, we should listen to all the crap our parents and professors feed to us about these being some of the best days of our lives. They may be right, but only you, and you alone, can determine that for yourself.

To my fellow frosh I say congratulations on making your way through it all.

Now pick up your shovels, we have a few ugly pasts to bury and some new niches to carve out. We don't want the next crop of freshmeat to see our mess, do we?



THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Speaking of ... Summer Vacation

What are your plans for summer vacation this year?



Mark Alexander, freshman: I'm going home and working at a basketball camp for kids.

Danna Bremer, junior: Several options: maybe an internship, or work for the school or go home. The internship I want is with Jim Henson Production Studios in New York. There's another option in Charlotte working for a video company whose main thing is NASCAR. I really want the internship with Henson, though.



George Dennis, sophomore: I will be here working in admissions as a tour guide. I'm going to work for the global experience class for incoming freshman and we're taking a tour of the Texas and Mexican border.

Elic Center, junior: I'm working on the Elon Files and I'll be in summer school. I'll also be working at home in Raleigh.



Sarah Deschane, freshman: Working, but I'm not sure where yet. I applied at the Department of Environmental Management. I'm thinking I'd like to work as a park ranger.

Shaun Landers, sophomore: I'm going home to work for two months before I come back here in August for Orientation. I'm waiting in an Italian restaurant back in Jersey. I'm going to work a lot and make lots of money.

compiled by Carrie Lancos with photos by Crystal Pape