



THE PENDULUM

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Elon's growth raises concerns

Katie Bonebrake

The Pendulum

As the size of Elon's freshmen class has increased, so has Elon's total enrollment. This fall Elon's enrollment is 3,836 students. This increase, which has been caused by many factors, gets varied reactions from many around campus.

According to Mark Albertson, registrar, the largest factor in Elon's growth has been improved retention. This means more students are coming back year after year. Usually about 80 percent of the freshmen return for their sophomore year. However, 85 percent of last year's freshman class returned this year. This helped contribute to the enrollment growth. There has also been a slight increase in the number of freshmen enrolled.

Albertson says there have been many changes in the 21 years that he has been at Elon that might help explain the college's growth.

"The quality and number of facilities have grown incredibly. Elon has become a more beautiful institution and far more opportunities are available to the students," he said.

Each year the admissions office must decide how many students to accept. Usually about 30 percent of the accepted students enroll, said Nan Perkins, vice president for enrollment management.

However, this year 32 percent of the accepted students enrolled. This contributed to a freshman class of over 1,000 students, the largest ever.

"The quality of the applicant pool has increased every year," said Perkins. "This year the average SAT score jumped fifteen points."

Elon's reputation is also growing and therefore more students are interested in the college, Perkins said.

"Elon is becoming a very popular school with the move to Division I athletics and the new library and science building. Visiting students are very excited."

One possible effect of Elon's growth that has many worried is a possible increase in class size. Albertson said that the class size has actually decreased over the years because years ago classes used to be few and large in size. Now, classes are plentiful and have smaller numbers of students.

"Most classes

fall between twenty and thirty-seven students, but several classes have limits of twenty or twenty-five," Albertson said.

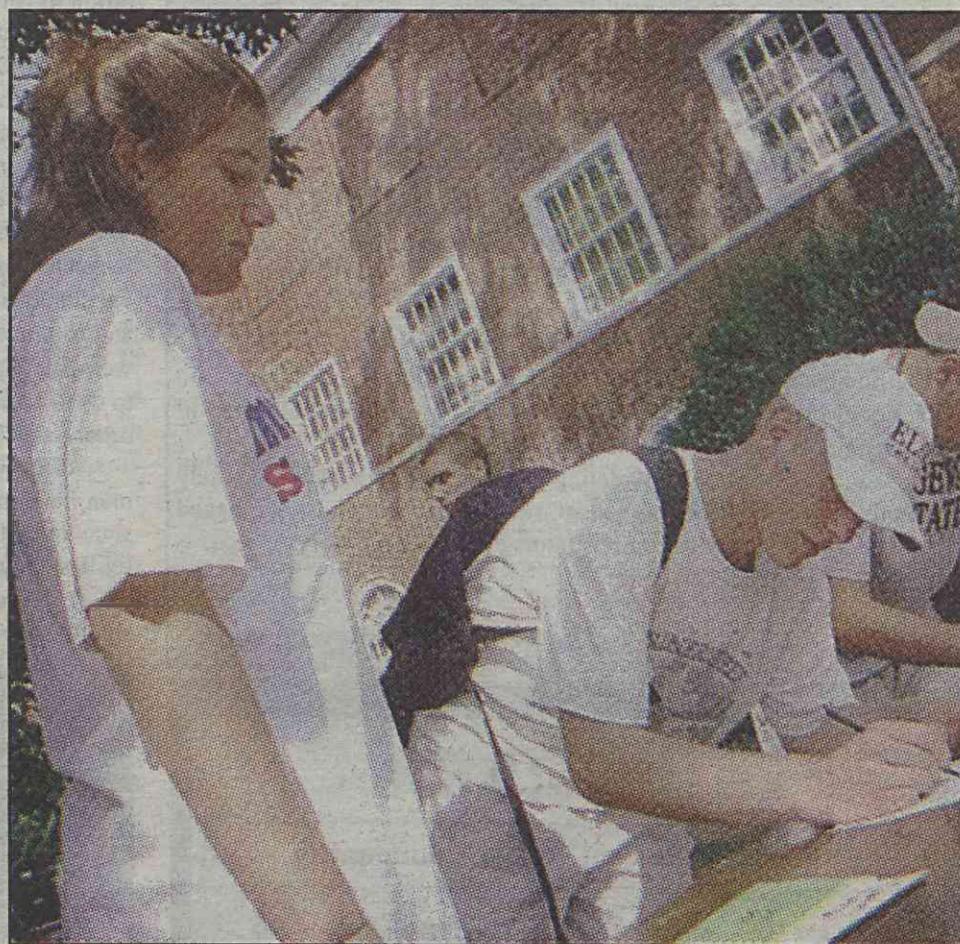
"We tried to reduce the class sizes limit to make for a better academic environment,"

Student opinions are varied when it comes to the subject Elon's

growth. However, most were concerned with the student increase. Several students said Elon's size was one of the major features that attracted them to Elon College.

"I came for the small school

see GROWTH, page 5



Jenny Jarnecke/The Pendulum

Friday's Organizational Fair gave students the opportunity to learn about and sign up for the many campus activities.

Pendulum F.Y.I.

Group to examine freshman year

Patrick Donovan

The Pendulum

Elon has begun organizing a task force in order to help strengthen the freshmen experience.

The group, which will consist of at least six faculty and two students, will examine the freshmen experience from an academic, social and cultural level.

By systematically examining from orientation until the end of the spring semester, the task force hopes to decide if new students are having a true "learning experience."

Although most new students

have expressed satisfaction with their classes and social involvement, the school feels that it can do even better.

"Sometimes freshmen come expecting a huge change, and many times it isn't," said Julianne Maher, vice president of academic affairs. "We want to know if freshmen are having the kind of experience we want them to have."

Chairman of the task force Richard Haworth, a math professor, said, "It is important that we implant new students with high expectations," said Haworth.

Haworth says that the group

is still in planning and has yet to set definite goals. "We will most likely use a variety of surveys to discover certain attitudes and behaviors."

"We are trying to discover what needs to be improved so that students grow academically, socially and culturally while establishing strong bonds with their professors," he said.

Mike Heringslack, a sophomore, feels that some things such as cultural events should be more advertised to new students and made

see TASK FORCE, page 5

