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Experiences and encounters II: Freshmen Move-in Day

Ashley Brown
The Pendulum

Move-in Day is a defining one in the lives of most freshmen. They start the day asking, "What will my roommate be like? Where am I going to put all this stuff?" and end the day saying good-bye to their family.

This day causes stress not only students, but parents, who hope that it runs smoothly without accidents.

"I liked the way the school set up Move-in Day this year," said Staley Hall's Community Development Coordinator (CDC) Cierra Hossman. "The freshmen went over to the tents, got all the stuff they needed and moved right in. Everything ran really smoothly. The Orientation Leaders were a big help."

Unfortunately the day was not without its bumps. Katie Batten and Kristin Burgett, who moved into first floor Carolina, had several problems. They decided that bunk beds would create more space, so Batten's father tried to do it himself.

The beds fell apart on him and they were forced to call maintenance who told her they would be right over. Four and half hours, and several phone calls later, maintenance arrived.

"It was horrible. We had bed parts all over the floor and couldn't move anything in or put things away," said Batten.

Animals were the problem for some students. Although ants seemed to be common, there were bigger problems. Alison Kandzer from third floor Virginia had a bat in her room.

"My mother opened my closet to find a small dead bat clinging to the wall," she said. She had to remove it with a tissue and throw it out.

Most of the day's complaints came from computer problems. Alison Bunch tried to have her Ethernet card installed and was told she had to get a new computer.

"I was lucky my parents were still here and could go to Greensboro and have it exchanged," she said.

Most students viewed Move-in Day with a positive outlook and thought everything went fine. Cory Schroeder from Smith Hall felt that "everybody was so helpful, it was great."

Elina Berman from Staley also thought that her move went well. "I love my roommate and my suitemates," she said.

Jamie Sclater was one of the freshmen allowed to move in early.

"I had never moved before, but everything went well. My CDC and the East area people really helped me out," she said.

Every freshman has a different move in experience, but be it good or bad, fun or difficult, their first day of college will be a memory they won't soon forget.

Immersion offered at El Centro

Lauren Bigge
The Pendulum

Buenos Días, señoritas y señores! El Centro de Español opened this summer at Elon so that faculty and staff could learn to speak Spanish. In the past week, since students have been on campus, El Centro has received a "really, really good response from the students," Sylvia Muñoz, Director of El Centro, said.

Muñoz says that El Centro is great for the college's bilingual program. Elon has come to realize the practical importance of students, faculty and staff knowing several languages. She added that she recently spoke to Professor Ernest Lunsford's conversational Spanish class and encouraged them to visit El Centro, because although learning to speak the language in the classroom is great, practicing it in a different setting is an added advantage.

The purpose of El Centro is to provide a welcoming immersion environment for students, faculty and staff to learn conversational Spanish. El Centro offers official certification of each individual's proficiency level on graduation transcripts, as well as travel grants which will be available for those achieving designated levels of proficiency and commitment to El Centro.

Additionally, Muñoz pointed out that speaking Spanish as a second language gives students a substantial professional advantage in the future.

El Centro offers personal interaction with native Spanish speakers, one-on-one and small group discussions, interactive CD-Roms, magazines, newspapers, books, videos and much more. El Centro will also be sponsoring many cultural, service and other programs throughout the year including movies, fiestas and dinner outings.

The moment one sets foot inside El Centro, it is apparent that it is a unique environment to practice learning the language. Bits and pieces of different cultural tastes decorate El Centro. Setting on a desk are ox carts from Sarchi, Costa Rica, while a colorful piñata is placed in the middle of the room.

Lunsford feels that El Centro is a wonderful parallel to the Spanish academic program because the foreign language department and El Centro will be mutually supportive. For example, El Centro will aid the department in promoting the study abroad program. Lunsford says that he "hopes it (El Centro) will be successful."

With 30 students already frequenting El Centro and 200 more having filled out interest forms, El Centro is off to a good start. However, Muñoz encourages even more members of the Elon community to visit El Centro because it has only four student workers and is in need of volunteers. These volunteers tutor students with their homework as well as conversational skills. El Centro de Español is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.