

# Trustees name Lambert eighth president

**Michelle Cater**  
*The Pendulum*

Elon College paved the way for the future Wednesday when the Board of Trustees unanimously voted Leo Lambert as the college's eighth president.

Lambert, 43, is currently serving as the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He will assume the position of president on January 1.

"Dr. Lambert possesses the academic and senior leadership experience which qualify him to lead the institution into the 21st century," Robert LaRose, chairman of the Board of Trustees said.

"He has built an outstanding reputation as one of America's top administrators and will foster a climate of excellence as we build on Elon's reputation as one of the premier undergraduate institutions on the Eastern Seaboard."

Lambert, who was recently named an outstanding leader in American higher education by *Change* magazine, graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in English from State University of New York at Geneseo and received his master's of education from the University of Vermont. He was awarded a doctorate in education

from Syracuse University.

At La Crosse, Lambert is a strong supporter of international education and has encouraged both student and faculty exchanges in China, Russia, Germany and Mexico. He is also a strong supporter of undergraduate research.

Lambert is a noted author on subjects pertaining to higher education and has co-edited three American Association of Higher Education volumes on school-college partnerships.

Lambert describes the connection with Elon to be a perfect match, both for him and his family.

"It feels very right in our hearts to be here," he said.

While he is honored to have been chosen as the next president, Lambert said the most overwhelming feeling he has is one of humbleness.

"It (Elon) is a treasure of an institution, and it is a great deal of responsibility to take this office. It is an office that I take with the utmost seriousness.

"It is also humbling to follow in the footsteps of two longstanding and absolutely brilliant past presidents."

Lambert said, "One of the factors that attracted me to the Elon presidency is the institution's commitment to innovation in the curriculum and in teaching."

He also said he was attracted by the sense of community he feels on the campus.

"My sense from talking to people is that faculty, students, staff, Trustees all believe that they have a real voice in the direction in which the college is going to be moving in the future and I really believe in that kind of community-based planning."

Lambert said that Elon has gained national attention as one of the most improved institutions of higher education in the past 15 years.

"This is a remarkable mark in terms of how quickly Elon has progressed forward and you can literally feel the momentum when you're on campus," he said.

Wednesday night, current President Fred Young and Lambert met to start discussing the transition period.

"Fred (Young) has already been the most gracious mentor that a new president could have," Lambert said.

"President Young is leaving Elon College in a position of strength and vitality. This is an enormously wonderful institution due in large measure to the leadership that he has provided and I think the institution is going to move very confidently into the 21st century because of his leadership."

Lambert has no real plans for

Elon's future yet.

"Initially what I want to do is listen and learn," he said.

Lambert also plans on finishing the Elon Vision as it stands now before taking the college into the future.

"I think the most immediate task at hand is to finish the Elon Vision, which I think is an enormously creative vision that is going to lead to enhanced academic programs. It will complete a program of just absolutely beautiful facilities... and I want to finish that first and use that time to think very creatively and expansively about what the next step is."

Lambert plans to make several visits to the college between now and January, when he, his wife



Laurie, and two daughters, Callie, 13, and Mollie, 10, will move into Maynard House.

Lambert is very involved in the community of La Crosse and plans on becoming as involved in the Burlington area.

"I think the first thing we will probably do (as a family) is make sure our daughters are well-established in activities here."

## A look at Elon's past presidents: 1889 - 1998

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*Dr. Leo Lambert will be the eighth president in Elon College's 109-year history. The Pendulum presents a look at Elon's past seven presidents and some of their major accomplishments.*

**William S. Long (1889-1894):** Long was chosen as president of the college before the college even existed. Under his leadership, the current plot of land was selected and the town of Elon College was developed and organized. Long also supervised the construction of the college's first campus.

**William Wesley Staley (1894-1905):** The Board of Trustees chose The Reverend Staley after Long's resignation. Spent part of his time as president in Suffolk, Va. working with his church up there, visiting Elon when necessary. It was under Staley that Elon's first dean was named and faculty began much of their own governance. Elon athletics began during Stanley's administration. Publication of *The Elon College Weekly*, the school's first newspaper, began during Staley's presidency.

**Emmett Leonidas Moffit (1905-1911):** One of Moffit's first actions was the construction of West Dor-

mitory. Moffit also brought electricity and running water to Elon College. The current Elon College seal was designed in 1908.

**William Allen Harper (1911-1931):** Harper started the Student Army Training Corps during World War I to help keep Elon open. The SATC helped provide military training to young men during the war. Harper was also president during the famous Elon fire of 1923.

**Leon Edgar Smith (1931-1957):** President Smith managed to keep Elon College open during the Great Depression, even while schools of similar sizes closed. He also helped

organize a training center for the Army Air Corps at Elon during World War II.

**James Earl Danieley (1957-1973):** During Danieley's presidency many of the buildings on campus now were constructed including Long building, Hook, Brannock and Barney dormitories and the McEwen Library. Danieley describes his greatest accomplishment as president as "getting through the 60s unscathed."

**James Fred Young (1973-1998):** During Young's presidency, enrollment more than doubled. Majors such as communications, leisure/

sport management and computer systems as well as masters degrees in business administration, education and physical therapy were added. The "Elon Experiences," including study abroad and service learning, were created. Young also oversaw the construction of the Model Center for the Arts, the Koury center, Moseley Center and the East Campus apartments.

*Note: Most of the information on the past presidents was gathered out of "Elon College: Its History and Tradition" by Durward T. Stokes.*

**Editor's Note:** Due to Fall Break, *The Pendulum* was not scheduled to print the week of October 15. However, it was decided that the news of Elon's new president could not wait a week. The regular edition of *The Pendulum* will begin publishing again the week of October 22. Thank you.