

Lee shares his love of math with students

Michelle Cater
The Pendulum

The number of math majors at Elon is growing and the department is recognized as one of the best math departments in the state, as Dr. Todd Lee, assistant professor of mathematics, is quick to point out.

"Some of the greatest, big league, unknown stuff at Elon is going on in this department," he says, as he begins to talk about the success and projects of his students and co-workers.

"I like the fact that no one knows how awesome we are."

Lee, who has been a full-time professor at Elon for four years, didn't arrive at Elon out of the blue. Lee is originally from Burlington and even graduated from Cummings High School.

"I used to love going to Elon football games, but I never thought I'd be a professor here," he said.

Lee got his undergraduate degree at Guilford College and then traveled to Texas Tech

where he got his master's degree and doctorate.

After getting his Ph.D. "I actually just got a plane ticket and ended up at the door," of Elon he said. As it turned out, when Lee arrived back in town, Elon had a one semester, full-time position open. Lee has been with the college ever since.

Math is Lee's real passion. His office, located on the third floor of Whitley, is filled with complex drawings of math equations and posters of smiley faces. Even the smiley faces are math related, however.

"People have a real phobia about mathematics," Lee explained. "They don't understand what mathematicians do. They are intimidated and afraid... So when they come into the office I try to change that."

Math encompasses almost every part of Lee's life. He is the faculty adviser for the Elon College group of the Math Association of America. He spends part of his summer teaching math at North Carolina Governor's School (an opportunity for the

state's top high school students to take college level classes). He even spends his free time reading books about mathematics.

He also likes giving talks and lectures and attending conferences on mathematics related subjects.

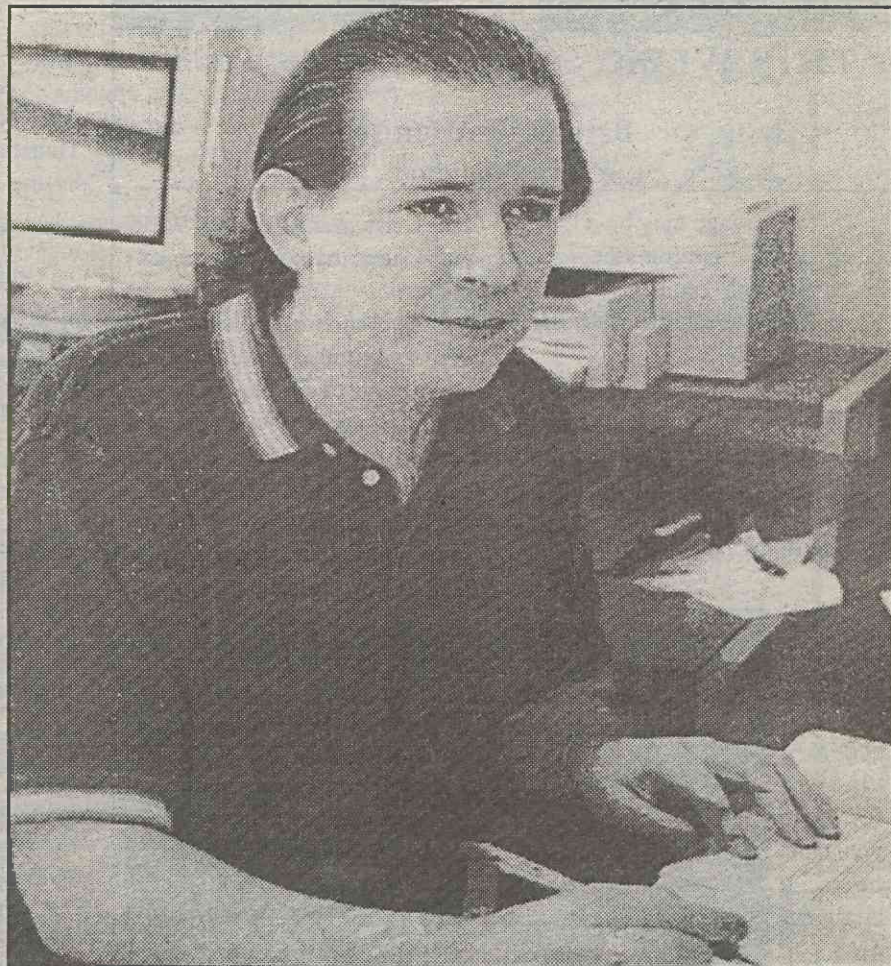
While math encompasses most of Lee's life, he does realize there is more to life than numbers. He enjoys attending concerts — the last concert he attended was the Aerosmith concert and he will be attending the Dave Matthews Band concert when they come to town.

Lee also said he watches a lot of TV, while he mostly watches documentaries, he confessed to watching professional wrestling.

"It's really cheesy. But we can't get trapped into looking at life too seriously," he said about the sport.

Lee said he also watches "South Park."

"It's sick, but I can't help but laugh and laugh," he said about the cartoon.



Emily MacDonnell/The Pendulum
Math professor Todd Lee prepares for another day of class.



CAREER DIRECTIONS



ELON CAREER CENTER - 313 E. Haggard Avenue ♦ 584-2538 ♦ Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
⌘ www.elon.edu/careers ⌘

On-Campus Recruiting Opportunity

Regional Acceptance Corporation

(An Affiliate of BB&T)

Interview Date: Friday, November 20

Sign-up Deadline: Tuesday, November 17

(Come by the Career Center for details and to leave resume)



For those who signed up for **JOB FAIR** interviews, if you haven't checked your schedule, please do so as soon as possible.

YOU ARE WRONG!

If you think you missed your chance to meet employers at...

Job Fair '98

Wednesday, November 18

12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Airport Marriott - Greensboro

What do you need to do to attend?

Come by the Career Center to pick up...

- List of employers and research those of interest
- Directions to the Marriott
- Tips on "How To Make The Career Fair Work For You"

^^ Take Plenty of Resumes and Dress to Impress ^^