

Trustees name Lambert eighth president

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 com-

mitment 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 pro-

gressed 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."

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Faculty and friends remember Al Carpenter

When Elon College faculty and staff talk about math and computer science professor Al Carpenter the word devoted is often used.

"He was fully devoted to his students and the college," said Richard McBride, the college chaplain.

Carpenter, 45, passed away Saturday night after being hospitalized Thursday with a cerebral hemorrhage, or bleeding in the brain.

His co-workers say Carpenter was very dedicated to the college and to the students he worked with.

"Al was the most devoted faculty member I've ever know," said Rosalind Reichard, the dean of math and sciences.

"He lived and breathed Elon and teaching."

Richard Haworth, a profes-

sor of mathematics, describes Carpenter as "passionate and committed to what he thought was important in the lives of the students and the life of the college. He wanted to see students committed to themselves as learners and respectable human beings."

Carpenter, who has been at Elon since 1983, had a reputation for excellent teaching and for car-

ing for his students. This reputation helped him to win the Daniels-Danieley award, Elon's highest honor for teaching, in 1989.

"This speaks very highly of his ability," said former Elon professor Joyce Speas, who knew Carpenter well.

"Both students and faculty thought highly of him."

Carpenter was also instrumental in the creation of April's Academic Summit and played a key role in the Summit's success.

"He was one of the ones to raise the issue of academic standards and high expectations," said Vice President of Academic Af-

fairs Julianne Maher.

"It was really his determination to keep asking the questions," that helped create the Summit, Maher added.

There was more to Carpenter than what was seen inside the classroom, though.

"I don't want to use the word 'workaholic' because that doesn't describe Al," said McBride.

Carpenter was extremely involved with the Elon College Community Church and taught Sunday school. He also played tennis and was taking ballroom dancing lessons.

"I guess the thing that struck me most about him is that he was so unassuming," said Speas.

Friends also describe Carpenter as being caring. Reichard mentioned that he used to walk her to

her car when they were both working late in Whitley Building just to make sure she was safe.

"Speaking for students, I think we all thought he was a great guy," said Eric Hurwitt, one of the students who coordinated the Academic Summit with Carpenter.

Carpenter's funeral will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Elon College Community Church. Visitation will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday at Rich & Thompson Funeral Service on South Church Street.

Memorials may be made to Elon College for a computer science scholarship in Carpenter's memory, or to the Hardesty Mission Fund at the Elon College Community Church.

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