

Mark Richter: Seeking higher education as a path to the future

Carrie Lancos
The Pendulum

At Freshman Convocation in the Fall of 1995, Mark Richter heard the same speech that former president Fred Young gave every year and heard then-SGA Executive President Michael Rodgers give the welcoming speech to the freshmen.

When they left the Convocation, his dad said to him: "Mark, you know something? In a couple years you'll be up there where that Michael Rodgers was."

Three years later, Richter, a senior political science/public administration double major from Greenport, N.Y., did just that.

"I could never see myself welcoming the freshmen or being president of the Student Government," Richter said. "But every time I ran for a position, I thought about what my dad had said that day."

He joined the Student Government Association early, serving as a freshman class senator and as sophomore class president. As a junior he served as executive treasurer.

Although he intended to run for a second term as executive treasurer, his father asked him why he didn't just run for president.

Finding no reason not to, Richter ran for Executive President and was elected.

"I think it's fun to see students who can fix the problems on campus without whining about it," he said of what he thought was best about SGA. "But the best part is not just solving problems but planning for the future."

Richter's year as SGA Executive President, which officially ends at the inaugural ceremony tonight, has been a busy and productive one.

Over the course of his term he represented the student body on the Presidential Search Committee, which selected Leo Lambert as the new Elon College President last semester; he has played an active role in the day-to-day operation of the SGA Senate and he was chosen to follow in the footsteps of Michael Rodgers by taking a two-year term as a Youth Trustee on the Board of Trustees.

In addition to his work with the SGA, Richter also works in Admissions, a trait which he shares with his older brother who works in Admissions at Virginia Wesleyan College.

Although he will not take the title of Youth Trustee until after he graduates in May, he already is look-

ing forward to playing a part in the completion of the current Elon Vision and the design and planning of a new Elon Vision.

"I don't think Elon should really change too terribly much," Richter said. "What I think we should do is build on what we have."

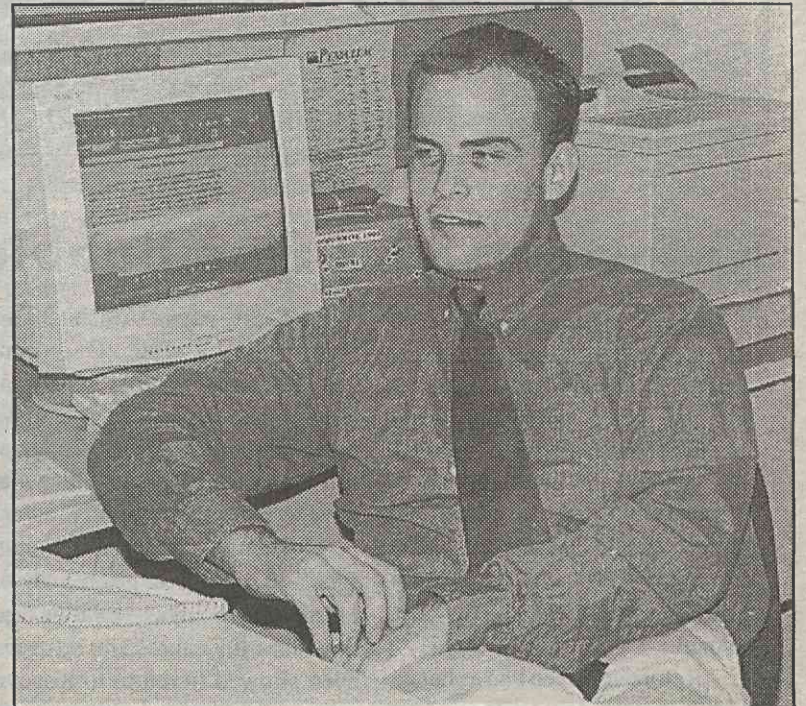
He stressed that increased diversity among both faculty and staff as well as a continued effort to promote academic challenges and the unique experiences that Elon has to offer is the key to preserving a healthy future for the college.

His own future lies in furthering his education. He has applied to George Washington University where he plans to pursue a master's degree in higher education administration. The school is not far from American University, where his girlfriend is pursuing her master's.

He also hopes to work with an educational association dedicated to promoting excellence in higher education. He believes he may continue into doctorate study and hopes to eventually become a college administrator.

He cites his experience with the Presidential Search Committee as an encouragement to pursue a career in higher education administration.

"I've been inspired by ad-



Emily MacDonnell/The Pendulum

Outgoing SGA Executive President Mark Richter plans on furthering his education and entering a field in which he may regain a presidential title.

ministrators on this campus and I have seen the importance of higher education and of education in general," he said. "I think colleges are exciting places and I'd like to be involved in giving other students the same opportunities I had at Elon."

Does a future in higher edu-

cation administration mean that Richter might return to Elon and get his title back?

"I would highly doubt that I will ever become president of Elon College," Richter said. "But then four years ago I highly doubted I would ever become the president of Student Government."

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