

# Richard Haworth describes working at Elon as 'hitting the jackpot'

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News Editor

When Richard Haworth arrived here at Elon in 1974, he described it as, "hitting the jackpot". But a lot has changed since then, and he strives to make adjustments to his new students and the new facilities around him.

Dr. Haworth has been a resident of North Carolina for most of his life. He received his Bachelors of Science in Mathematics at Wakeforest and his Masters in Teaching at Duke. He also attended Appalachian State where he earned a Masters of Arts in Mathematics. At Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Haworth finished his schooling as a Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics.

In 1963, he taught one year of high school in Morgantown, North Carolina after leaving Wakeforest, then he returned to being a student. After VPI, Dr. Haworth started his job search. He sought a small, undergraduate college with a religious affiliation. Elon had everything he wanted.

When Haworth first arrived here, Elon was just beginning to grow. There were no computers on campus and only Department Chairs and employees in the Classroom-Office Building had telephones. Many of the distinguished pro-

grams that Elon is proud of now were just getting started, like the volunteer program. He said, "that all changes at Elon are made in order to please all of Elon and everyone here has a hand in the decision-making process."

But it's not so much the physical changes at Elon that matters to Dr. Haworth, it's the changes in the student body that he feels is significant. In his years here, he's seen the "percentage of out-of-state students skyrocket, their SAT scores rise dramatically, and the overall quality of their educational backgrounds change".

"The challenge as a teacher is seeing these shifts and modifying the way we present the material," Haworth commented. The students' prior knowledge, technological abilities, and writing skills able him to better explain difficult mathematical concepts.

Dr. Haworth has a real passion for both his profession and this college. He said, "I just absolutely love working here at Elon with my students and colleagues. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the opportunities I have to work with such wonderful people. I couldn't have chosen a better college. I am proud to say I am an Elon teacher."

Haworth is heavily involved in the North Carolina Council of

Teachers of Mathematics. He is on the executive board and coordinates their conventions. Dr. Haworth is also in charge of a ten county wide math competition that Elon hosts annually.

During a given semester, Dr. Haworth can be found teaching many areas of math. Right now, he is teaching two courses of Calculus II. Other courses he teaches include Calculus I, Geometrical Analysis, and the Nature of Mathematics.

He describes himself as a teacher by saying, "I'm not just a part of the present, but I am a part of the future. And that is just a plain privilege."

In recent summers, Haworth visited England, Scotland, Ireland, and France. This summer, he will travel to Switzerland. But, Dr. Haworth isn't your normal tourist. Instead of fancy hotels, room service, and cabs, he sleeps in youth hostels, dines on food from grocery stores, and uses public transportation. "My son taught me how to travel this way, so I guess sometimes the teacher becomes a student," Haworth commented.

Another interesting fact about Dr. Haworth is that he rides a Harley Davidson. In fact, he is currently awaiting his new Roadking, which will arrive sometime in April.

Overall, Dr. Haworth is in-

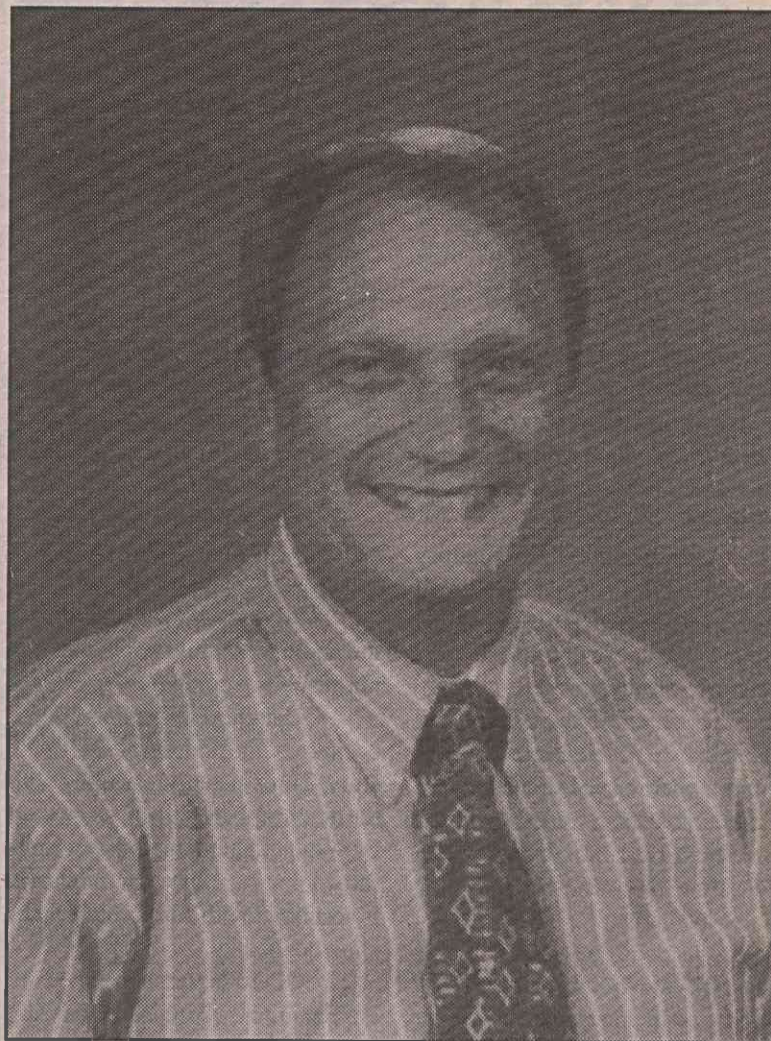


Photo courtesy of College Relations

credibly happy here at Elon. His advice to Elon students is: "Take your intellectual and character development seriously because the

person you become now will be the same person that your spouse, children, and colleagues will have to live with later in life."

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