

Lee allows for discussion style classroom

Susan Dupstadt  
The Pendulum

Witty, enthusiastic, and creative are just a few adjectives to describe Richard Lee, one of Elon's English professors. Lee's main objective is grabbing the attention of his students, and holding it until the end of class.

As a child, Lee was a Navy brat. Traveling the world allowed him to grasp the idea of cultural diversity, which has made him the open minded person he is today.

Lee said the quote he lives by is a saying by Buddha: "All we are is the result of everything we have thought."

Another favorite of his is this line from the film "Islands in the Stream": I know now that not one thing is true, but that everything is true."

He is enthusiastic about Elon as a whole. "Elon really does preach and practice one on one relationship between students and professors." Lee said the future at Elon will be a bright one. "Elon is trying to be on the

cutting edge of global curriculum and incorporate technology into the classroom"

Lee takes an interesting approach to teaching. He would rather hear his students' thoughts and ideas rather than stand in the front of the classroom and lecture. "Education has to be fun and interesting and it can't be all the time," he said.

Lee is an educator who trusts his students and enjoys interacting with them.

He said, "I feel that most educators today do not give students enough credit."

Lee promised himself that he would never ignore what his students could bring to the classroom.

"Have fun with learning and do not take it so seriously," he said.

Lee is committed to service, especially here at Elon. He was the first professor to teach the winter course: a call to service. His goal during that class was for the students to participate in reflective discussions and take something away

from it.

He has also been an advisor for many of the service trips.

Kathy Lee, his wife of 22 years, is also a professor at Elon College. She said, "Richard is interested in everything! His vitality for life and teaching plus his vivacious personality helps bring his love of new and challenging activities into the classroom.

He is always sharing his interesting reading with his students," she said, adding that he stretches his students' minds and fulfills their thirst for knowledge.

Students say they can relate to Lee as a teacher. "He represents Elon's persona of getting to know the teacher on a personal level: where the teacher is more than a teacher is, he is a friend," said student, Amy Collins.

Lee's advice to students: "Education is an ongoing process. Always question things, and be an advocate for something in your lifetime."

Pendulum is looking for candidates for the A-list!

To suggest a faculty or staff member, or a student who has contributed to the Elon Community, e-mail us at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) by April 17th.

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