



Informing the Elon College Community

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Goodbye Elon College, Elon University effective June 1, 2001

Jessica Rivelli
News Editor

The Board of Trustees announced their unanimous decision to designate Elon as a University Wednesday. The news of Elon's university designation as of June 1 of 2001 and the approval of the NewCentury@Elon was broke to campus and local media at 4 p.m..

Gail Drew, chair of the board backed the decision with, "The name Elon University, in conjunction with NewCentury@Elon, our new strategic plan, will position the institution for continued dramatic improvements in academic programs, personnel and facilities. Elon will be a leader in 21st century higher education."

The name change has been planned since 1992, when the trustees began planning the Elon Vision, which is currently being concluded.

The 14th point of the plan was "To have the programs, personnel, students and trustees worthy of recognition as a comprehensive undergraduate university,"

However, some students, faculty and alumni commented that the process went too fast, and that their voices weren't heard loud and clear. Jack Duvall and Garrett McKnight were among the alumni

that were opposed to the name change.

"Alumni's responses were placed in a notebook for the Board of Trustees and the task members to look at. Approximately 70 alumni wrote to us, and only a small amount of those opposed the change," President Lambert said.

The main consensus of students is that Elon should remain small and quaint. The university status is feared to cause extensive growth, which could inhibit the atmosphere of Elon.

President Lambert's response to this was, "We are not aspiring to become a big university. Students choose Elon over UNC, Duke and Wakeforest because of our size. We aren't going to hurt our competitive advantage."

During the Elon Vision, Elon increased enrollment by 80 students a year, bringing Elon to the total of 4,100 students today. Growth for the future has been speculated at 50 students a year under the NewCentury@Elon plan. The growth has fueled new residence halls, class buildings and programs.

"The number of students will eventually have to be limited, but I am unable to give a number at this time," President Lambert said.

In a mass e-mail to all members of the Elon community yesterday afternoon, Dan Anderson, Director of College Relations informed everyone that the Board of Trustees approved the name change.

Reactions to the change varied. Students and faculty alike each hold their own views on the university designation.

"The reasons behind the change seem to contradict each other. They want a small quaint college, but the prestige of a university," Senior Nancy Whitten said.

"I am just glad that I one of the last that will graduate from Elon College instead of Elon University."

Drew wrote in the e-mail, "In recent weeks, many Elon alumni, students, faculty, and staff have communicated with us about adopting the university name. Some have heartily endorsed the change, while others have expressed reservations. But all have demonstrated their commitment to Elon's future and a desire to retain the qualities that make this school unique."

Over the next few months, an implantation committee will address issues that surround the change, like a new seal. Their plans will be designed to be in place for the June 1st transition, at which time "Elon will be one of the nation's premier small, private, select universities," said Drew.



Jennifer McCort/ The Pendulum

President Lambert, John Gardner, Gail Drew, Janie Brown, Zachary Walke, Ocie Murray, and Noel Allen, gathered to answer questions from local and campus media regarding the change to Elon University.

Overview of Parents Weekend

Susan Dupstadt
The Pendulum

Parents Weekend proved to be a huge success with a large quantity of people in attendance this year. From the football game to the Beach Dinner and Dance, people truly made the most of Parents Weekend 2000.

Due to the large incoming freshman class in August, there was an abundance of parents and siblings at this amazing event. Everywhere people went in the Burlington area was flooded with Elon people.

Hotel rooms were booked, restaurants were crowded and of course the ideal student store, Wal-mart, was unusually packed. The weekend kicked off Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. with the golf tournament.

One popular activity for Friday afternoon was families who toured the campus with their student. Many buildings stayed open for the majority of the day to offer people a chance to see the many changes taking place here on our campus, such as the Belk Library and the new Communications building.

see "PARENTS" page 5



Grand opening of the Campus Shop.
Page 2



Dedication of Young Commons.
Page 3



Focus: Superstition. Folklore, Occult.
Page 10-11