



Informing the Elon College Community

THE PENDULUM

WWW.ELON.EDU/PENDULUM

VOLUME XXVI

ISSUE 11

DATE 11/30/00

Elon again ranked as a top school in National Survey

Audrey Seagraves

The Pendulum

The 2000 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) reports Elon as one of the nation's four most effective institutions in engaging students educationally.

Money Magazine, the Princeton Review, Time, Newsweek, Kiplinger, Mother Jones and Yahoo! (the nation's "most wired" institutions) have joined the company of U.S. News and World Report in the process of ranking the "best of the best" in colleges and universities across the nation.

They examine such factors as retention rates, faculty-student ratios and graduation rates to determine who belongs on their lists of sought after schools.

In contrast, the new National Survey of Student Engagement collects information directly from undergraduate students about the quality of their education, revealing whether institutions are using their resources to provide meaningful learning experiences, and how they are using them.

George Kuh, Indiana University higher education professor, developed the \$3.3 million project. The survey is sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Pew Forum for Undergraduate Learning.

Surveys from more than 63,000 freshmen and seniors at 276 four-year

colleges and universities were collected.

The results of the student survey provided the first set of comparative standards for determining how effectively colleges are contributing to learning.

They grouped the students' answers into five benchmarks that Kuh said are generally regarded as key indicators of quality undergraduate educational experiences: level of academic challenge; active and collaborative learning student interactions with faculty; enriching educational experiences outside the classroom; and supportive campus environment.

"Students and parents should be asking colleges the kinds of questions NSSE asks," Russell Edgerton, director of the Pew Forum on Undergraduate Learning, a survey sponsor, said in a news release. "How much do students study and how rigorous are their assignments? How much writing is expected? How often do students interact with their teachers in meaningful ways?"

Elon scored in the top 20 percent on each of five benchmarks of quality measured by the survey.

Nine out of 10 students surveyed said their Elon education is excellent or good. Participation in Elon study abroad programs was three times the national average.

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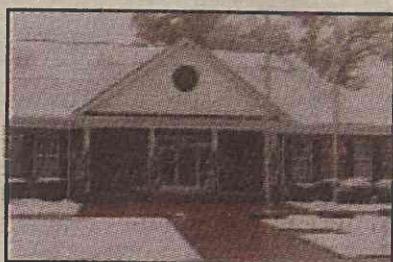
Jennifer McCort/ The Pendulum

While most quilts cover people, the one found hanging this week in Moseley Center covers an issue that all of Elon and its community will soon know much about. This portion of the AIDS Quilt is only a preview of what is to come this spring, when the floor of Koury Center will be covered in patches that tell the stories of AIDS victims from all over the world.

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Christmas at
Elon
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Early snow
fall at Elon
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Elon Basket-
ball in full
swing
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