

Former President George Bush speaks at Convocation

Elizabeth Sudduth

News Editor

Former U.S. President George Bush was on Elon College's campus Tuesday to deliver the keynote address during Spring Convocation at 4 p.m. in Alumni Gym.

"This is a historic day in Elon's history," Elon president Leo M. Lambert said. Lambert recognized the students who made Dean's and President's List this past fall semester as well as the Class of 2001, for whom the ceremony also honored.

Bush served as the nation's 41st president from 1989 to 1993. During his term in the Oval Office, Bush witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification of Germany, the Gulf War and the collapse of the Soviet Union and negotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

His appearance at the invitation-only event marked the celebration of the successful conclusion of the Elon Vision, a strategic plan launched in seven years ago to en-

sure Elon's position as one of the premiere undergraduate institutions on the eastern seaboard.

"Since 1994 and the beginning of the Elon Vision, you have seen Elon gather momentum, transform its facilities, create new and exciting programs, attract the best faculty and students and build a national reputation," Lambert said.

The Elon Vision is the most ambitious strategic plan in school's history. The campaign for the Elon Vision, which had a goal of \$40 million, raised a total of \$46,708,468 to help fund the strategic plan.

Among honored guests invited to join to the former president were Ernest A. Koury, Sr. and Maurice J. Koury. These men joined with former President Bush to receive the honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree.

These honors were presented to the recipients by J. Harold Smith, Trustee Emeritus, Dean E. Smith, Head Coach Emeritus of Men's Basketball at UNC-Chapel Hill and Gail Drew, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

A gift given by Maurice J. Koury, in honor of his brother Ernest, will allow for the school of business to name their new building for the in his honor.

Bush, an unlikely comedian, spoke of 43, a reference to his son, the current president of the United States, George W. Bush and even mimic Dana Carvey's impression of himself saying, "Not gonna do it, wouldn't be prudent while shaking a finger at the audience."

On a more serious note, Bush discussed importance of giving back. "I would encourage you to do it all," he said. "Don't be afraid of triumphs and dreams, don't even be afraid of failure or tears, we all stumble we all fear and that's what makes us human."

Bush focused on a new sense of American patriotism, a new sense of pride and purpose coming from a new generation that should take the country new heights of achievement.

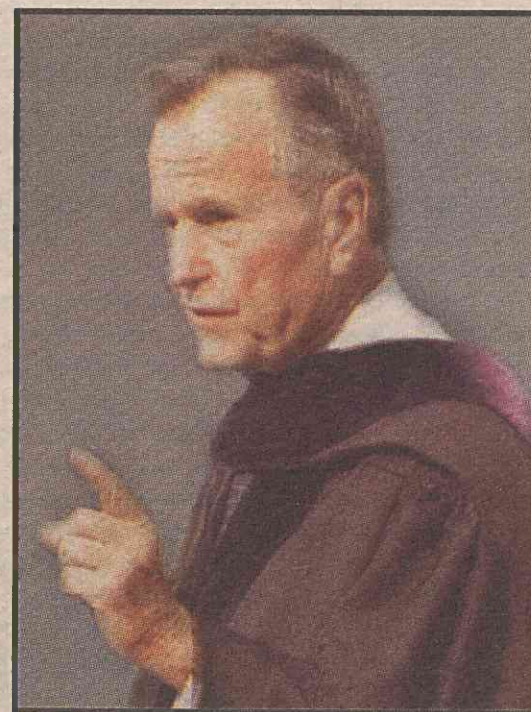
"For America is never fully herself unless she is engaged in a higher calling, moving forward, reaching higher," Bush said. "I challenge you to be bold in your character, be bold in your dreaming and be bold in your caring and compassion for humanity."

Fifty-three years ago, the former president was in the same shoes and most of the students at Elon on verge of experiencing something new. "It's doesn't seem possible, but I was sitting right there, where you are, bursting to get out, play my stake and take a crack at anything," Bush said. He stressed to never regret the future. "You have a lifetime of chances at your grasp right now so don't lose any of the, don't give up the chance to take a risk, hug a child or change a life," he said.

The former president stressed the importance of giving back to

your community and your surroundings. "I hope for you all challenges and successes," Bush said. "But most of all I hope everyone of you find the depth and meaning of life that comes from service to others."

Former U.S. President George Bush said he was the proudest father in the world on Tuesday.



Adam Waterson / Photography Editor



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President Leo M. Lambert and Former U.S. President George Bush speak at convocation.

College remembers biology professor

Jennifer Guarino
Managing Editor

The sly smile and twinkling eyes that captured the hearts of students and faculty no longer graces Elon's campus. Dr. R.D. Rao a professor of biology at Elon College for over 30 years, died Tuesday, April 13 at Durham Regional Hospital. He was 63 years old. Rao is survived by his wife, Kathleen W. Rao.

Lisa Carloye, an assistant professor of biology said she remembers Rao's sense of humor made him fun to work with. "He had that twinkle in his eye and a sly smile as he came to the punch line of his story and wagged his head in satisfaction in remembering the event," she said. It was "evidence of the generous, fun-loving and

people-centered person I came to know and love over the last four years."

Rao earned a Ph.D. degree from North Carolina State University in the areas of Cell Biology and Microbiology. He also did post-doctoral work in genetic engineering and biotechnology at East Carolina Medical School's microbiology department.

Rao used humor to hold his students' attention. Cindy Rhine took Rao's biology class in the fall of 1993. "Dr. Rao would put on a white glove because he was allergic to the chalk. Then he would raise his hand and say, 'Look, I'm Michael Jackson,'" she said.

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