

Plagiarism 101: What more students need to realize about cheating

Stephen Dignan
Contributing Reporter

Last year, Dr. Mary Wise, Elon College associate dean for academic affairs, says 28 Elon students were charged with honor code violations, 27 of whom were charged with plagiarism.

Wise and other faculty members say although the college's online student handbooks spells out what plagiarism is and how to correct the problem, too many students know too little about plagiarism.

"They've got a rudimentary knowledge of it, but they don't know what the nuances of it are," Dr. Robert Vick, chair of Elon's biology department, said.

Physiology professor Dr. Sandra Seidel says she thinks some students simply aren't educated on

what constitutes an act of plagiarism.

"I don't think we always recognize when we're not changing the idea into our own words," Seidel said. "I think many students don't know what plagiarism is."

The Elon student handbooks defines plagiarism as "presenting the work or ideas of another as one's own," and details three ways to avoid it: using direct quotations, acknowledging an idea's author when paraphrasing and fully identifying the source of any research materials not generated by the student.

Wise says "procrastination and panic" frequently lead students to plagiarize. "I expect they get busy," Wise said. "That's no excuse."

Senior communications ma-

“To many students know too little about about plagiarism.”

“Plagiarism really isn't something I think about, but it is part of the academic honor code, and we have the responsibility not to plagiarize,” Wingate said.

Faculty members say plagiarism incidents are more painful for teachers to confront than most students realize.

“Turning a student in for

honor code violation can be very emotional for faculty members,” Wise said. “They're so involved with students. They feel that trust has been violated.”

Seidel writes “I believe in your integrity” on the whiteboard during her human physiology laboratory class. “I think plagiarism is the most difficult to deal with,” she said. “It really hurts me when that happens.”

Vick says that two semesters ago, he had to bring a student up on an honor code violation.

“I was really upset. It's just a real heartbreakers to have to go through with that,” Vick said. “It's tough to go Dr. Wise's office and say, ‘I've got a student that's cheating.’”

Elon chemistry professor Dr. Eugene Gooch has worked at Elon since 1988 and says plagiarism is a

major offense against fellow students.

“They're working their tails off trying to learn something, trying to earn something the honest way. That would burn me up,” he said. “My blood pressure would go up in a case like that.”

Wingate mentions research she has done at Elon and believes that she should receive credit for the effort she put into it. “I don't want anyone passing off my work as their own,” she said.

Gooch says he believes students need to be made more aware of plagiarism rules. “I don't think the issue is addressed as often as it should be,” he said, but adds that he believes academia is taking steps in the right direction. “These days, the guidelines are much more specific and much more encompassing.”

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GospelChoir spring concert April 22

The Elon College Gospel Choir will present an evening of foot-tapping music during its spring concert at 5 p.m., Sunday, April 22 in Whitley Auditorium.

The choir is directed by Che C. Shearin. Tickets are \$3, free for children under 12 and those with Elon identification.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the McCrary Theatre box office at (336) 278-5610.

The box office is open between 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Earth Fest, April 21

Earth Fest will be celebrated this year outside the Story Center, across from the Model Center for the Arts.

From 12-5 p.m. there will be tie-dyeing, bands, canoeing, food and games.

Please bring a canned food or old clothing for the homeless.

Come celebrate the earth and recognize the all peoples' needs.

N.C. Poetry Society reading, workshops

North Carolina poets will meet at Elon this Saturday, April 21.

North Carolina poets will meet for a day of readings and workshops at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 21 in Yeager Recital Hall, located on the Elon campus in the Faith Rockefeller Model Center for the Arts.

Members of the North Carolina Poetry Society and invited poets will meet for a public poetry reading, followed by workshops led by the poets. The reading is free and open to the public.

The event is sponsored by the North Carolina Poetry Society and the English de-

partment. For further information, contact Helen Mackay (336) 278-5616.

Last Chance to Poll this semester!

The Elon College Poll will hold the third and last poll of the semester on April 23, 24 and 25 from 5-9 p.m. in the Powell computer lab (Powell 211).

Paid positions are available and interested students should sign up outside Powell 308. Please email the Elon College Poll for additional information. Positions will go quickly!

Swing and Latin Dance Concert

The Elon Jazz Ensemble presents a Swing and Latin Dance Concert Thursday, April 19 in McKinnon Hall, Moseley Center.

From 6:30-7:30 p.m. there will be free dance lessons and beginning at 7:30 p.m. music will begin.

There will be an open dance floor so don't forget your dancing shoes.

The Campus Shop Has “University” clothing

Stop by the Campus Shop to buy the first Elon University clothing available. We now have T-shirts, long sleeve T-shirts and hats.

Polo shirts are due to arrive next week. More clothing and giftware will arrive during the summer. Watch for more announcements on new merchandise.

Study Abroad Essay Contest Winners

The following students are winners in the Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies Study Abroad Essay Contest: Adam Cooley- Belize Winter Term; Donnie Wickline-London Semester; Catherine Perkins-Holocaust Winter Term; Caroline Lalla-London Semester; April Hewitt-Guatemala Winter Term; Brooke Droy-Nepal Semester.

These students will be presenting their essays on April 11, from 6-8 p.m. in Carlton 206. Everyone is invited to attend.

“Les Liaisons Dangereuses” opens April 19

The Department of Performing Arts will present Christopher Hampton's “Les Liaisons

Dangereuses,” opening at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19 in McCrary Theatre, located on the Elon campus in the Faith Rockefeller Model Center for the Arts.

Show times are 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19 through Saturday, April 21, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, April 22. Tickets are \$10 or free with Elon identification. Tickets may be purchased by calling the McCrary Theatre box office at 278-5610. The box office is open between 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Emanons to present spring concert, April 19

Elon's instrumental jazz ensemble, the Emanons, will present their spring concert at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19 in McKinnon Hall, located in Moseley Center.

Directed by Jon Metzger, the Emanons recently returned from their concert tour of Munich, Salzburg and Vienna and their appearance at the East Coast Jazz Festival.

The concert is free and open to the public.

The Bird is the Word