

THE PENDULUM

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Elon ranked as one of the nation's top institutions of higher education

Jennifer Guarino
Managing Editor

Elon University is once again ranked one of the nation's top schools for effective practices in higher education by the 2001 National Survey of Student Engagement.

The NSSE highlighted Elon's focus on faculty-student mentoring as one of six institutions. The survey also found that 94 percent of Elon students said their educational experience at Elon was excellent or good.

Unlike many college-ranking guides, NSSE does not rank schools by number. NSSE provides information about schools based on five benchmarks of academic excellence – level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment. The standings are reported by NSSE to each institution, which reserves the right to distribute its results. Elon

ranked in the top 10 percent in each category.

One function of the survey is to provide students and parents information that measures student learning and engagement. Dean of Admissions Susan Klopman says the NSSE presents relevant indicators of educational quality in a time when prospective students and their families are looking for a way to distinguish between colleges and universities. "NSSE provides information like nothing else families have seen," she said.

The survey describes this institution in terms of the key indicators of what the educational program and educational values are here." Klopman says NSSE proves "We do what we do exceptionally well."

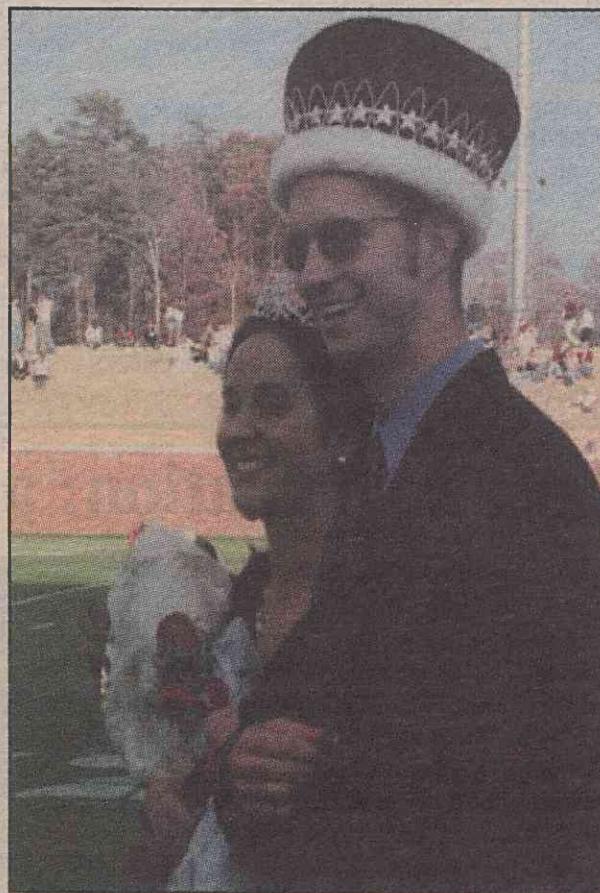
Elon scored above the national average for colleges and universities on several categories. Seventy-eight percent of Elon students have studied abroad or plan to, while nationally only 25 percent do. Two-thirds of Elon students often work with other students outside class.

The national average is 50 percent. Elon also ranks high on internships. Ninety-two percent of Elon students have done or plan to complete an internship and while the national average is 67 percent.

Sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and The Pew Forum for Undergraduate Learning, NSSE released its first survey last year. The first NSSE survey reported that Elon students are among the most active and engaged learners in the country.

Elon was one of 60 schools that completed the survey via the NSSE Web site. More than 560 students Elon students were randomly solicited by e-mail responded to questions about their educational experience. About 200 students completed the 41-question survey: 121 freshmen and 87 seniors. Elon had a 37 percent response rate. Nationally, more than 71,000 students at 321 four-year colleges and universities completed the survey. The full NSSE report is available at www.iub.edu/~nsse.

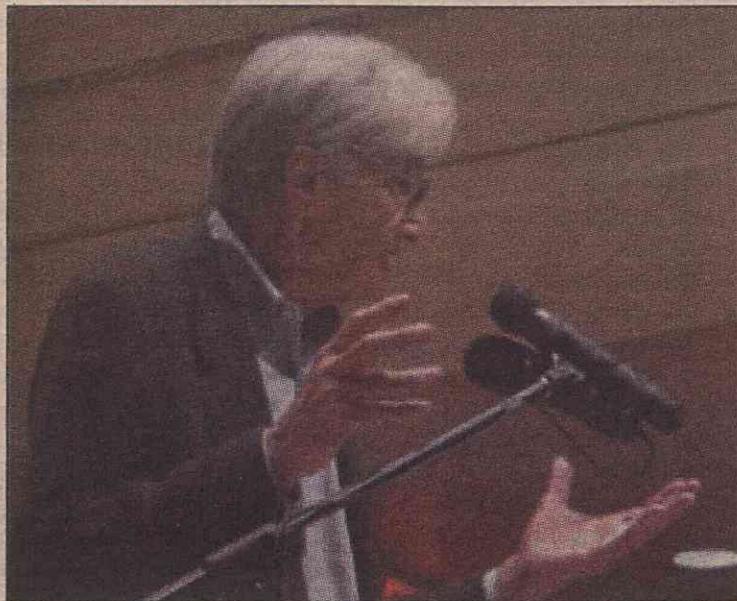
Homecoming royalty crowned



Emily Hudson/Photo Editor

Katie Gosselin, a junior from Cheshire, Conn., was crowned Homecoming queen, and senior Scott Wollaston of Landenburg, Penn., was crowned king.

Zinn speaks to community about keeping democracy alive in America



Mandie Danielski / Photographer

Howard Zinn addressed students about history's role in today's current economic and political standards.

Erin Cunningham
Reporter

Howard Zinn, people's historian and civil-rights activist spoke to a tightly packed audience in Whitley Auditorium Wednesday, Nov. 7. His topic: bringing democracy to life in the United States.

Zinn, who received a standing ovation before he even began speaking, says the history of the people is unmentioned and ignored in history books. "It should be understood that the democracy we have is not due to our founding fathers," he said, insisting on the necessity of incorporating our history into present day life. "If you don't know about history, it is as if you

were born yesterday," he said.

Zinn, who enrolled in college at age 27, comes from a working class background, which inspired many of his present ideals. "It gave me a sense of consciousness," he said.

He spoke about the formation of the United States. During the American Revolution the country was not united against the British. Zinn paraphrased John Adams, saying one-third of the country was for independence, one-third was against and one-third really did not know what to think. "At the end of the Revolution, the class struggle came out more openly," he said. "The promises of equality were gone."

He also played on common stereotypes adopted by society about

the founders of the country. "People did not always come here equal," he said.

According to Zinn, there was a class struggle from the beginning because some people traveled with grants from the crown, others with nothing at all, still others as slaves.

"This country began with a struggle between rich and poor, powerful and powerless," Zinn said. According to him leaders try to unify the nation by using words.

"We have this language that tries to tie us all together," he said. He offered the example of the Declaration of Independence.

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