

## Editorial

*Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what really matters*

Every Thanksgiving, one of our staff members makes a habit of writing down why she is thankful. The list includes everything from family members and friends to life's ordinary events.

Elon students have felt the stress of classes, jobs and student organizations piling up recently. We're doing a lot of complaining.

Our staff wrote down some of the things we're thankful for:

"I'm thankful to be surrounded by such an amazing group of friends and to have such a supportive family."

"I am thankful for all the self-wisdom I have found over the past semester in regards to classes, work and elements in life."

"I am thankful for a loving family and wonderful friends, in addition to my copy editor and Robitussin."

"I am thankful that in a week, I will be able to enjoy a deep, long,

happy sleep."

"I am thankful for the crunch of the leaves under my feet, because it reminds me to take a step back and look at the beauty around me."

We're thankful for a lot. We're thankful for our readers, even those who question the ideas presented each week. We're thankful for our adviser who uses everything as a learning opportunity and challenges us to be our best.

Instead of being thankful for a big turkey dinner, think about the amazing people and opportunities that surround you each day. Take some time to say thanks.



*The views and ideas expressed in Opinions are not necessarily those of The Pendulum, its staff or Elon University.*

# Class registration: a stone age behind the rest of the world

**Kate Houston**  
Columnist

**Auto response from K8theQT:** Registration here is sooooo behind the rest of the world...

**MyJMUfriend:** I'm sure places like Afghanistan and Siberia have it a little worse than Elon. Ever registered in sub-zero temperatures on an empty stomach?

**K8theQT:** ...Elon has a great study abroad program. Maybe that's where they're getting this barbaric system they're using.

**MyJMUfriend:** So you're telling me Elon needs to look to third-world countries for help? They're probably wondering, "How are those sneaky Polish reconfiguring their servers?" It's not that bad is



it?

**K8theQT:** Exactly!! Servers? What are those? We have lines divided by Disney World chains, we carry carbon copies, we stand in alphabetical order (to add a little variety, sometimes *reverse* alphabetical order), we run rat races to

get into certain classes and last but not least, we enter Hell (a small room with a crammed row of cranky people sitting behind computers).

**MyJMUfriend:** That sounds like something out of a bad '80's movie

**K8theQT:** You're tellin' me.

In this conversation with my friend from JMU, I was finally able to reduce my blood pressure to a number actually on the charts and put my finger on exactly what was bothering me about Elon. I had been time warped backward when I took part in my first registration process.

I was under the impression that since my birth in 1983, large steps in the journey of mankind had been taken. Did I just imagine the automated telephone systems, the health research on the long term effects of stress and Al Gore's "invention" of the Internet that the rest of the world is taking significant advantages of? Apparently I was raised outside of this "Elon Bubble."

Call me crazy, but I just assumed that my \$19,430 a year was going toward this "state of the art" equipment I'm using. I guess that would be the white carbon copy registration form I can proudly call my own. Or maybe it's that incredible computer system they used to inform me that I got into two of the five classes in which I attempted

to register.

Server? Who needs one of those? We have that wholesome one-on-one human contact that Elon so heartily promised us. Thank goodness my family's hard earned money is going toward such updated technology. At least we can say we got our promised one-on-one... with an ever-so-pleasant registration faculty member.

Since my tuition obviously isn't going toward a "state of the art" registration process, I would hope it would at least go toward my classes. As one of the bazillion communications majors, I am required to take the introduction to journalism and communications class as a prerequisite for almost other course in the major. However, there were only four classes offered this semester.

Out of the 725 freshmen in the new student record, more than one in four declared communications or journalism as their major before school even started.

Out of the 1,214 freshmen enrolled in the fall, even more have invariably jumped on the journalism and communications bandwagon, even if they haven't declared it yet.

So I was right when I thought it to be strange that only four classes of the most basic course were being offered. By 4:23 p.m. on Monday, the first day of freshmen registration, not one basic communications course was open, unless I

wanted to enroll in a public speaking class for only two credit hours. Supply and demand? That class must have also been filled for the poor soul who is coming up with these class options.

Elon's registration process is like the Russian bread lines. In the name of this barbaric process, I wait in the long lines for an unsatisfactory product. Except that the cost of my bread line is a significant \$19,430 more. Unfortunately, my more expensive process encompasses the same ideals. It is primitive, inefficient and unsatisfactory to public interest.

The good news is we have other options for better ways of doing this educational ritual. Maybe we could just line up tallest to shortest, draw names out of a hat or play darts for admittance into the classes we need for our majors. Seems just as sensible... and efficient.

The bottom line is that we are attending a private university that can't offer perks like online registration for its students. The bricks under my feet and the fresh flower aroma that fills my nostrils are nice perks, but they are in no way helpful to my education.

I personally would be willing to deal with paved sidewalks, bare flowerbeds during the winter months and even a few more people in my classes if I could register and actually get into classes, with the speed and efficiency of the rest of the civilized college world.

## THE PENDULUM

Informing, entertaining and inspiring the Elon University community since 1974

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