

THE PENDULUM

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Parents Council makes spring visit to Elon

Heather Graf
Jennifer Hildebrand

The Elon Parents Council met their spring meeting March 8-10 to discuss where the school is going and what they can do to help.

The Parents Council, composed of 133 parent representatives whose children attend Elon, serves as the executive board of the Parents Association. It keeps parents informed of Elon activities, policies, programs and development and generates an understanding and goodwill among members of the Elon community.

"We try to be ambassadors for the university," council member Ed Pinn said. "We try to be at every Elon function in our area, as well as hosting summer get-togethers for incoming freshmen."

The spring meeting of the Parents Council is the second and final meeting of the year, and is geared toward welcoming new members and coming up with a plan for the next year.

"This weekend is designed to help you help Elon," Mary Ruth, director of alumni and parent relations, told new members at the introductory meeting Friday. "Your job is to tell the Elon story to others."

The council members stayed busy as they toured new residences in Danieley Center, dined off campus with students and staff and ate dessert at Maynard House. They also listened to a state of the university address, attended committee meetings and toured the Academic Village and Cantina Roble.

"This is an opportunity for us to touch base with what's going on on campus," said Dee D'Angelo, who along with her husband, Larry, is co-president of the Parents Council. "We get to see what has been going on first-



Annette Randall / Photo Editor

Elisabeth Knier and Lauren Shores wait to greet arriving parents.

hand, and also see how our decisions have impacted the school."

It was because of the input of the council in the late 1990s that Danieley Center was built, Ruth said.

"The parents on the council said that Elon needed more dorms," she said. "So we listened, and that is how Danieley Center was created."

Similarly, Ruth said it was the council members who first acknowledged Elon's need for a new health center and raised \$250,000 for the construction of the facility.

On Saturday, members of the Parents Council divided into committees regarding admissions, careers, communication, events, student life and development. These committees are run through the council officers, and members are encouraged to change committees at any time.

"Parents can change committees whenever they want," Ruth said. "There are two council meetings a year for all four years, and couples or individuals can

attend a different committee meeting each time if they want to."

Each year, a nominating committee recommends 25 parents of incoming freshmen to join the council, and President Leo Lambert confirms these recommendations.

"We invite parents to join when their child is a freshman," Ruth said. "Then, they remain on the council until their child graduates in four years."

"Everyone wants to be on Parents Council," she said. "I've even had parents who, when their child gets accepted to Elon as a high school senior, send me a resume and application to be on the Parents Council before their child even arrives at Elon."

"[They] are the most informed parents in the school," said Nan Perkins, vice president for institutional advancement. "[They] are needed to look at a picture larger than just your child and be an advisory and sounding board for the school."

New physical therapy doctorate program added

Sally Lynch
Reporter

A main point of the NewCentury@Elon Strategic Plan is strengthening the university's graduate program.

The DPT program joins the Masters of Education program, which began in 1994, the Masters of Physical Therapy Program, which began in 1998, and a strengthened Masters of Business Program.

"I think that this is a fabulous thing for Elon," said Elizabeth Rogers, associate dean and chairperson of the department of physical therapy. "The program will allow Elon to reach a different type of student and our name could reach across the country. This will

really push Elon into a national presence for physical therapy. This really makes Elon a leader, not a follower."

The department of physical therapy began a multiple-stage process for transition to a DPT program in 2000. In June 2001, the Board of Trustees approved the proposal for transition, and few months later the university faculty approved the DPT curriculum. In December 2001, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education approved the transition and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted Elon permission to offer its first clinical doctorate.

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Annette Randall / Photo Editor

Tony Kiss and Amy Raque practice necessary physical therapy skills.

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