

# THE PENDULUM

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## Sullivan selected as graduation speaker

**Jennifer Hildebrand**  
Reporter

John Sullivan will deliver this year's commencement address May 25. Sullivan will speak in the place of Mae Jemison, the first black female NASA astronaut. Jemison cancelled her appearance because of a critical illness in her family.

Sullivan has been the backup speaker at Elon for two decades, and while numerous impressive speakers have addressed the graduating seniors, he has been waiting patiently for his chance to share his thoughts with those he has seen grow throughout their four years on campus.

"I had always imagined that, if I was called on, it would be in an emergency situation - a plane cancelled, a sudden illness," Sullivan said. "As it turns out, I have been asked early enough to have my name in the program. So this seems more like the real thing."

While Sullivan has been waiting 20 years to give an address, he has revised or rewritten his speech almost every year because of the changes in the environment and the student body.

"I have written a series of speeches over the years, a new one approximately every two or three years," Sullivan said. "If there is a year that I do not rewrite, then I always do some revision. I am changing and students are changing. What is appropriate to say and what I want to say changes too."

Sullivan has been a member of the philosophy department since 1970 and has earned a reputation as a respected scholar and educator. He has held the Maude Sharpe Powell Professorship as department chair since 1985. Sullivan is also a long-time participant in the acupuncture techniques sponsored by the Tai Sophia Institute in Columbia, Md., which is a program for adults that applies the principles of Chinese medicine to everyday life. He co-founded and teaches in

the institute's School of Philosophy and Healing in Action.

"Dr. Sullivan is one of the most distinguished and admired faculty at Elon," President Leo Lambert said. "He was chosen because he would have something to say and tell it well."

Sullivan will become the third member of the Elon community to deliver the commencement address at an important time in the school's history. President Emeritus Earl Danieley delivered the address at the 100th ceremony in 1990, and Isabella Walton Cannon reflected on her life and the life of Elon in the address of 2000.

"I am honored that a member of our own faculty will give the graduation address on the first graduation since Elon became a university," Sullivan said. "To me, that seems fitting."

While he has enjoyed his years as backup speaker, Sullivan says that after he delivers his address this year he will most likely relinquish his role.

## SGA budget hits organizations hard

**Stephen Facella**  
Reporter

Last Friday many campus organization presidents opened their mailboxes to find some disappointing news. The budget requests many made to the Student Government Association were not met, and in some cases, were cut from the previous year.

The budget requests for 2002-2003 set a record for SGA. The number of organizations and the amount of money that each organization requested from SGA drastically rose.

Last year, SGA supported 78 organizations, which requested a total of \$492,710. This year 86 organizations requested \$713,996. The available funding for next year is \$523,541. If SGA gave every organization what it requested,

there would be a \$190,455 deficit. As a result, 21 organizations will receive less funding than they did this year.

"We told students coming into budget hearings this is a tight year and to anticipate cuts," said Christian Wiggins, former SGA executive treasurer and current president. The committee struggled to divide funding. "A student comes to Elon to live their dreams. How can you prioritize other groups' dreams?"

SGA funding comes from the student activities fee that undergraduate students pay.

SGA's budget is based on 3,950 undergraduate students paying a \$60-per-semester fee. SGA distributed these funds among recognized organizations. SGA leaders anticipated the rise of student requests and petitioned the administration before school began for a three-

phase increase in the student activities fee. The first year, there would be an increase of \$20-\$70 per semester, followed by two years of increases at \$5 per semester. This would create \$80,000 in additional funds for SGA to distribute among various organizations the next year.

The proposed increase was tabled by the administration and never brought before the Board of Trustees for their approval at the March meeting.

"The proposal didn't get further along in this year's process because we wanted to see what the overall request and outlook would be," said Smith Jackson, dean of student life.

See **BUDGET**  
page 7

## Goodall sends messages of conservation, hope in speech

**Erin Cunningham**  
News Editor

30 years of research.

Goodall's journey as a researcher in Africa, which began in 1970, was not one she took by herself. "We can't go very far by ourselves," she said. According to Goodall, her mother had a profound influence on her success and her life. "Right from the beginning she was there for me," she said.

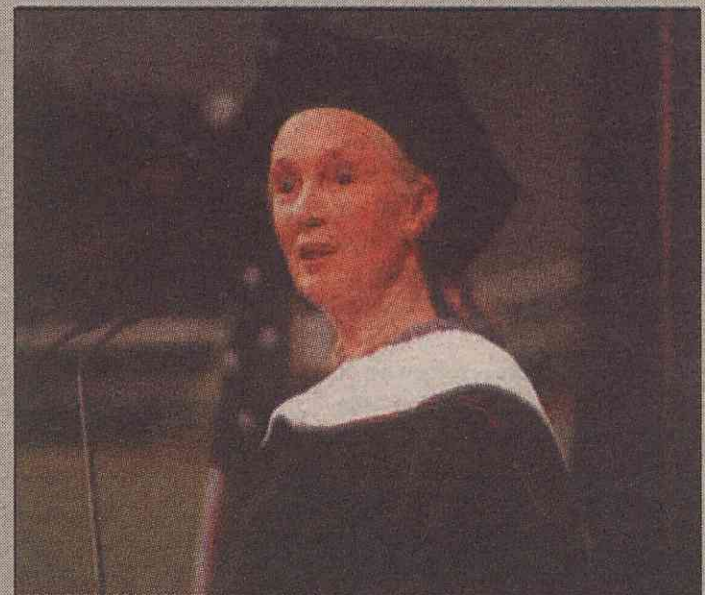
Goodall recalled a time when she was 4 and wanted to know how a chicken laid eggs. Understanding the power of observation, she hid in a pile of straw for four hours while her mother thought she was missing.

Jane Goodall, renowned scientist and author, offered an emotional speech and lessons in global responsibility April 4 during Spring Convocation for Honors.

The ceremony, which celebrated the achievement of President's List and Dean's List students as well as graduating seniors, was endorsed by Goodall's message that one person can make a tremendous difference in the world.

Goodall greeted the audience with the sounds of chimpanzees, the animals she has spent a lifetime studying. She has written more than 20 books based on her

See **GOODALL**  
page 9



Tim Rosner / Photographer  
Jane Goodall speaks about conservation and the importance of global responsibility.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Footprints of Africa festival begins Thursday...page 12

Southern belle tells all...page 21

Elon film festival this week...page 17

Baseball team ends 14 game winning streak...page 28