



The Pendulum

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Elon University

Elon, N.C.

If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

Class of 2006 sets new standards for university

Erin Cunningham

News Editor

Elon University's 113th freshman class is setting a new standard for 2002.

More applicants and a more selective process contributed to the rise in the average GPA of an incoming Elon freshman. The average rose to 3.6 on a four-point scale, compared to last year's average of 3.5.

"There's a different student who's interested in Elon," said Staci Powell, director of admission records. Admissions saw a 17-percent increase in applications for this school year, Powell said.

This increase in applicants led to a smaller percentage of students accepted to the university.

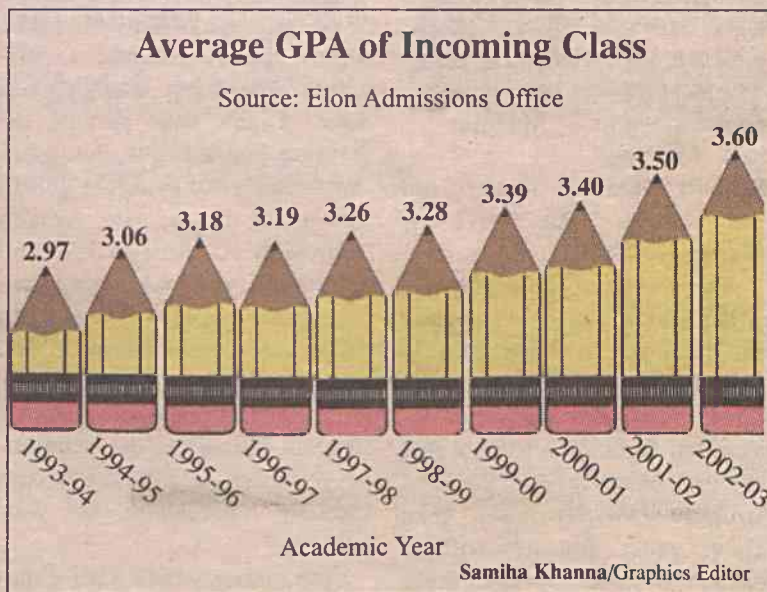
"We accepted 50 percent this year, and last year we accepted 64 percent," Powell said. "We could be more selective because of the larger applicant pool."

The incoming class scored an average of 1145 on the SAT.

"The students themselves are shaping the pool," Klopman said. "We are gradually moving to a more selective criteria."

Additionally, 56 percent were ranked in the top quartile of their graduating classes. Eleven years ago, incoming freshmen for the 1991-1992 school year held an average SAT score of 1030.

"We definitely want to increase the quality of the class each year," said Susan Klopman, dean of Admissions and Financial Planning. "Our goal is to increase the percentage of students academ-



“Each class has its own personality. This one has been on the move early with a clear idea of what they wanted. And, they wanted Elon.”

—Susan Klopman, dean of admissions

ically at the top of their class.”

At least 34 international students will also be on campus this fall, Klopman said.

Although Elon's averages continue to rise, Klopman said, the institution will continue to serve the solid “B” student it has always served.

“We're not about to become Harvard,” Klopman said. “That's not our goal.”

Most incoming freshmen this year come from North Carolina with 29 percent, and Maryland with 12 percent, which is consistent with past incoming classes.

Nearly 15 percent of incoming freshmen are fellows of science, leadership, business, journalism/

communications, teaching and honors. These students have an average SAT score of 1248 and an average GPA of 4.02.

Scholarship recipients have also shown increased qualifications. Thirty-one percent of the class earned a Presidential Scholarship. These students maintained an average high school GPA of 3.95 and an average SAT score of 1248. These are only slight increases from last year's Presidential Scholars. Next year, the admissions office will aim for Presidential Scholars to make up one-third of the incoming class, Klopman said.

Orientation continued on page 15



Photo submitted

Liz Chmelo is lifted by orientation staff members R.J. Shoemaker, Josh Daniel, Lauren Vater, Jennifer Collins, Greg Karpinski, Chris Litchfield and Chad Nason as they complete the ropes course.

Orientation paves way for freshmen

Katie Beaver

Managing Editor

The phone rings, the computer announces the arrival of a new e-mail and a small group of students forms outside Derek Luther's office waiting for a turn to talk to him. Amid the distractions, Luther smiles and sighs.

“Welcome to the typical day of the Orientation Team,” he says.

Luther is coordinator of New Student Orientation, an annual four-day introduction to the Elon academic and social communities for freshmen and transfer students. With the help of 16 head-staff members, 90 orientation leaders and 80 volunteers, Luther organizes everything from presentations on social issues to a student-faculty dessert reception.

Luther begins planning for orientation in October, when he selects the head staff by reviewing applications, references and interviews. Work begins in earnest in March, after the orientation leaders are selected and the entire Orientation Team attends orien-

tation conferences. The finishing touches are added by Mary Wise, assistant vice president of Academic Affairs, who coordinates the opening of the school.

“We work hard to keep things new and exciting,” Luther said. “We want to do things that have never been done before, and it's important to be on our game.”

The orientation head staff is made up of Elon students who have been members of Orientation Team at least once before. The staffers arrive at Elon two weeks before school starts to begin training and make preparations; when the 90 orientation leaders arrive one week before school starts, the head staff members must teach them how to work and interact with the new students.

Junior Talitha Rector arrived at Elon Aug. 2 to prepare for head-staff training.

Orientation continued on page 14

INSIDE

From a chess champ to a downhill skier, meet 11 outstanding freshmen. Page 10

Get off to the right start with Elon A to Z. Page 16

Fall athletic teams prepare for the season. Page 19