

Convocation welcomes and warns

Erin Cunningham
News Editor

Freshmen and transfer students officially became Elon students as the 113th academic year began Under the Oaks on Saturday, Aug. 24 with New Student Convocation.

Family and friends looked on as more than 1,200 students listened to messages of welcome and inspiration.

Senior Christian Wiggins, Student Government Association president, delivered the welcome while sharing personal experiences and words of wisdom. "You have come to the right place," he said. He instructed students to take advantage of every opportunity put before them. "Make your own ripples," Wiggins said. "Don't every be afraid to be who you want to be."

Smith Jackson, vice president of student life and dean of students, and Gerald Francis, provost and vice president of academic affairs, introduced several members of the freshmen class who have already made ripples in their high schools and communities. "This class will surely



Tim Rosner/ Photo Editor

Students listen to welcoming words from campus leaders during the ceremony Under the Oaks.

make many contributions," Jackson said.

He also said students should instruct professors to challenge them. "Challenge me to be a better person four years from now," Jackson said.

President Leo Lambert addressed

the class of 2006, telling them about change and challenges. "You will leave Elon some day, but Elon will never leave you," he said. "All of this will become a part of you."

Lambert spoke about the merits of a liberal arts education. "My most

important message to you this morning is to savor your experiences in the liberal arts and sciences," Lambert said.

Convocation cont'd on page 8

ALE busts keg bash

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News Editor

While Elon police say this weekend was the quietest school opening in six years, many students received citations for alcohol possession at a 250-person party at Sheridan Place.

In all, there were 33 citations and 41 charges made by Alcohol Law Enforcement.

ALE officers, along with Elon University Campus Police and the Town of Elon Police, staged Operation Cops and Shops to catch underage students purchasing alcohol, said Lavell Lovette, chief of the Town of Elon Police.

"We were targeting alcohol violations, specifically underage," she said.

Agents were in the store observing the purchases. Then, marked units were given descriptions of the vehicles in question, and they were stopped and cited, said Lovell.

Police received information about the purchase of four kegs to be used at the party, Lovette said.

"The problem was they were going to resell," she said, referring to the North Carolina law against reselling alcohol. "You have to have a license."

The statewide ALE has partnered with Elon police before, and Lovell said they will do it again. "They generally target college towns when school is starting to get back in," Lovell said of the ALE.

Arrests cont'd on page 8

Ratings not all good news for university

Jennifer Guarino
Editor-in-chief

As a new academic year begins, Elon adds a new college ranking to the list of recognition the institution has received in the last four years. Elon was one of 14 schools to debut on Princeton Review's "Best 345 Colleges" list this year. While it's an accomplishment for Elon to be recognized in this listing, the news wasn't all good.

The guide is composed of two-page spreads about each of the universities and a section of

"There is a broad-based campus effort in place to get the facts out about drinking - that is, to help students understand that the norm at Elon is not to abuse alcohol. Our data show that episodes of high risk drinking have steadily declined over the past five years."

- Leo Lambert, president

63 lists. Elon was listed in five of the top-20 lists: "Lots of hard liquor" (6), "Major frat and sorority scene" (2), "Election? What election?" (15), "Great food" (13) and "Dorms like palaces" (5).

Princeton cites Elon's beautiful campus, close student-facul-

ty relationships, small class size and academic program as outstanding.

"Elon's reputation is gaining in stature year by year, and the Princeton Review listing is another indication of the increasing national attention being paid to our institution," Elon President

Leo Lambert said.

The "Lots of hard liquor" category struck a nerve with Lambert. He has actively spoken about the importance of students making low-risk decisions regarding drinking over the past year. Alcohol and drug sanctions were increased in January, and 35 students withdrew or were suspended after a violation last year. This is up from eight students during the 2000-01 academic year.

Ratings cont'd on page 8