

The Pendulum

Established 1974

Winter Term allows students time to enjoy life

There is something invigorating about Winter Term. This three-week opportunity to immerse ourselves into the concentrated study of one subject has more benefits than those simply academic. Winter Term provides Elon students an amazing chance to simply enjoy life.

During the fall and spring semesters, we move quickly from classes to work to extracurricular activities. We eat our meals on the run, usually late. We squeeze time with friends into the late hours of the evening and on the weekends.

Everything changes during Winter Term. We can now enjoy leisurly dinners with friends, snowball fights and basketball games without worrying about the next meeting to attend or assignment to complete. Friendships are renewed and strengthened, free of the stress surrounding spring and fall terms.

In 121 days, seniors will sit Under the Oaks in maroon gowns, waiting their turn to cross the stage and leave the safety of their college life. Don't let this time slip by unnoticed, lost in a sea of term papers and presentations.

Remember the free-spirited month of January, when relationships took precedence over reading assignments.

Go to a movie on a weeknight. Take an hour to watch "Joe Millionaire" or "American Idol," basking in the guilty pleasure of it. Read a book for fun. Stay up until 4 a.m. talking with roommates and best friends.

Enjoy life.

The Pendulum

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Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, double-spaced, signed and include a telephone number for verification. Submissions are also accepted as Word documents on disk or by e-mail.

The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene or potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may have to be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

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Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

Elon students' etiquette similar to that found at larger colleges

Alex Stauffer

Guest Columnist

I came to Elon because of the weather, and also because when I visited the campus everyone seemed personable and friendly.

When I saw the school for the first time, I ventured away from my tour and went exploring on my own. As I was walking by Hook-Barney-Brannock, a student asked me if I was a prospective student.

When I told him that I was, he invited me into his room and answered my questions about the school.

I figured that I couldn't get that kind of atmosphere from University of Maryland or Virginia Tech.

My freshman year made me believe that Elon was a place where the students were friendly and sociable.

I came to expect students to say hello or at least acknowledge me when we passed each other on the walkways.

Whenever I held a door, or said thank you for holding a door, we would at least make eye contact and acknowledge each other.

Students are practically running to classes with their heads down and never greeting their fellow students. We all have agendas, but that doesn't mean we can't slow down a little bit and enjoy our days.

One of my friends noticed this as well, so he decided to note how many people thanked him for holding the door in one day. He

“Girls, it really does make us feel good when you smile and acknowledge that we exist, especially when we hold the door for you.”



Eric Hall/Photographer

said he held the door open for 60 people and only five of them said thank you. Is it just me, or does Elon not seem like it is part of the South anymore?

I am not asking that you go out after you read this article and hold conversations with every stranger you meet.

I am simply letting you all know about the downward trend in the Elon community. It feels good to walk down the sidewalk and greet a fellow student.

Girls, it makes us feel good when you smile and acknowledge that we exist, especially when we

hold the door for you.

Guys, I know it seems a little too sensitive to say hello when we pass each other, but there are more masculine ways to be polite. Any of the classic hand gestures or a head nod will do.

The weather at Elon this year has not been as nice as I've wanted, but I can't do anything about that.

The general atmosphere of this school has also been not what I expected, but we can all do something about that.

Contact Alex Stauffer at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

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