



The Pendulum

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Vol. 28, Issue 20

Elon University

Elon, N.C.

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

Fellows candidates will arrive this weekend

Jessica Patchett
Assistant News Editor

This weekend, Elon will host outstanding scholars, leaders and communicators who will compete to gain positions in each of Elon's six fellows classes. Faculty, staff and students have been preparing for Fellows Weekend for weeks, reading essays, designating hosting responsibilities and preparing to entertain the questions and curiosities of possibly the brightest group of students to compete in the history of the Elon fellows programs.

"We're used to a clientele that is diverse and interested in a variety of things. This group all expects good things of themselves," said Dan Wright, who has been head of the Honors Fellows program for six years. This year's pool of applicants for the Honors Program has an average SAT score of more than 100 points higher than the pool of the past two years, jumping to an average score of 1380. Faculty will find it difficult to choose 40 students, as 150 high

achieving scholars will compete this weekend for only 40 spots, rather than the 80 accepted in years past.

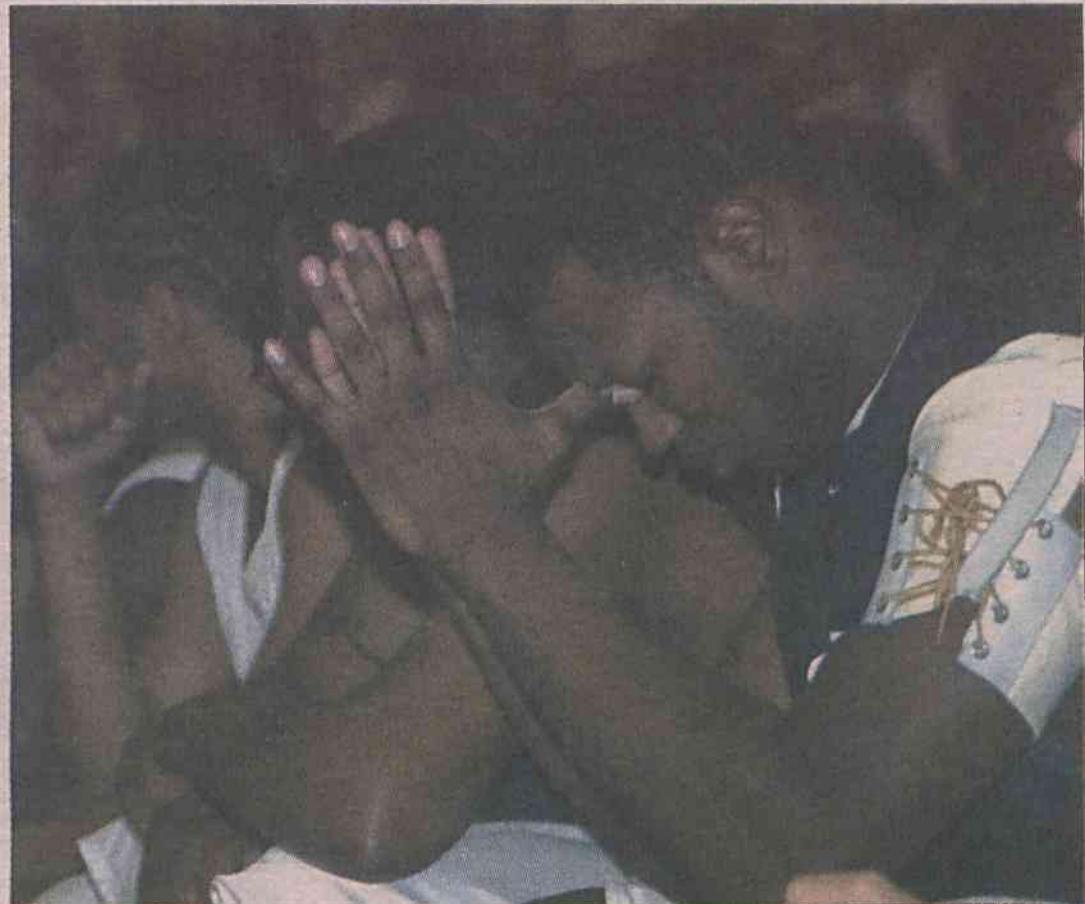
Brad Hamm, associate dean of the School of Communications and head of the Journalism and Communications Fellows program, and Tom Tiemann, economics professor and representative of the Jefferson Pilot Business Fellows program, also contend that this year's applicants have raised the bar for acceptance into Fellows Programs, as their academic achievement exceeds that of students competing in years past.

"I think you could pick the first 20 and the next 20 and the next 20 and they would all be good choices," Hamm said, referring to the challenge of selecting the next Journalism and Communications Fellows group of 20 incoming freshmen.

"The class [of applicants] is fairly similar. SATs and GPAs are higher," Hamm said, referring to the comparison of this year's

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Phoenix falter in 68-66 loss



Tim Rosner / Photo Editor

Elon basketball players wait anxiously on the bench during the final minutes of Tuesday's play-off game. The Phoenix were upset by UNC-Asheville at the Nest. See the story on page 24.

Elon staff hits the books with new GED program

Jessica Patchett
Assistant News Editor

Voluntarily attending class and doing self-assigned homework when most students are sleeping or out partying, 12 environmental services staff members have been working since July through the GED program which Elon and Alamance Community College offer to Elon staff. In an individualized classroom setting, nontraditional students learn at their own speed and in their own manner.

"[Students] tell me what skills they want to improve on ... I go around and help students individually," said Devon Smith, instructor of both morning and night sessions. Sessions are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 a.m. until 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. One student uses books and tapes to learn while others use computers for individualized work, according to Smith.

Smith, Ed Ing, director of physical plant, and Floyd Hinshaw, coordinator of the program, all

praise the students for the internal motivation and dedication for the program which they present. This motivation and interest has made the program successful, thus far, according to Ing. Elon has had a GED program similar in structure to the one now in place, but the program failed in its first attempt.

"Recognizing that some employees didn't have a diploma, we thought, well, it's a new day with new people and new interest and began a new program in July," Ing said. In the new pro-

gram, students may come and go as they have time and interest, learn at their own pace and remain in the program as long as needed, given the students are making progress.

Beyond logistical flexibility for students, the program fosters communication and student-teacher interaction. Smith has seen some classes fail when teachers refuse to interact personally.

"It does make a difference that I'm there every time and that I'm

interested in their work and interested in their lives outside of school," Smith said. According to Eva Boone, Smith is a good teacher and is well liked.

Boone, Mary Ector and Clementine Pinnix are three students who have been studying in the GED program since July. All three students must learn skills required for passing the GED examination which are math,

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