

THE PENDULUM

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

School receives \$1 million gift

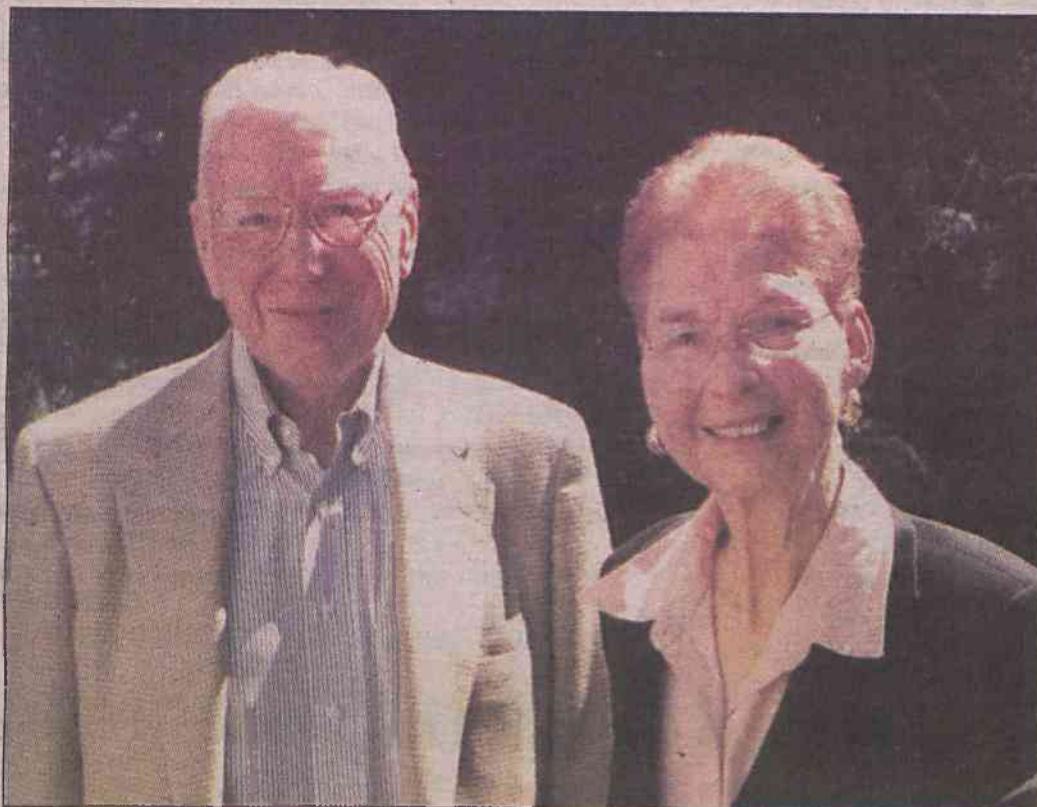


Photo Courtesy of University Relations

Douglas Noiles and his wife Edna Truitt Noiles, a 1944 Elon alumna, donated \$1 million to Religious and Spiritual Life – the largest gift ever given to the department. The gift will finance five new programs, including a study abroad course and speaker series. For story, see page 6.

Electrical problem forces evacuation

Steve Earley

News Editor

Staley residence hall was evacuated early last Thursday morning after a faulty socket caused several appliances to overheat and emit smoke.

Responding to a 12:07 a.m. 911 call, firefighters arrived at the scene at 12:11 a.m., just as campus police began evacuating the 35-year-old residence hall's 200 students.

Megan Bonstein, Staley third floor resident advisor, said symptoms of what turned out to be a loose wire started Wednesday afternoon when her roommate's hairdryer suddenly cut out. "I didn't think anything of it," Bonstein said.

But at 11:45 that evening, Bonstein and her hallmates started noticing more severe problems. "I was in my suitemate's room and all of a sudden, smoke started coming out of her desk lamp," she said. "It looked like it was coming

right out of the light bulb."

Residents also reported smoke coming from a computer and sparks coming from a television set, Bonstein said.

Using thermal imaging, firefighters identified a third-floor wall socket as the source of the problems. Utilities manager Paul Holt said the faulty socket caused a common wire – which provides power to three rooms – to come loose, in turn applying more than the normal 120 volts to connected appliances.

Holt explained that most appliances have heat fuses which shut-off a device before temperatures reach dangerous levels – but not before causing a little bit of smoke and a pungent electrical smell.

Although there was no fire and the fire alarm did not sound, the smell of smoke and sight of students evacuating the building was enough to alarm some residents. "A couple of people were really

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150th State Fair begins Oct. 17 Identity theft concerns prompt change in student ID numbers

Jay Dorne

Reporter

Celebrating its 150th anniversary, the North Carolina State Fair is making strides to attract more fairgoers to the event this year.

The fair is being held at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh Oct. 17 through 26 and will include variety of attractions, including competitive exhibits, livestock, entertainment, food and rides. State fair officials said they are confident that there will be something to excite every member of the family.

There will be several new additions to

the fair aimed at a larger audience seeking greater thrills and entertainment, said Heather Overton, State Fair public information officer. Among these additions are several new rides imported from Strates Shows, a midway provider and one of the few companies that still transports equipment by train.

"Bringing their supplies by train allows them to bring more cumbersome and elaborate equipment that normally could not be transported to the fairgrounds," explained Overton. Among the Strates Shows rides

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Matt Belanger

Asst. News Editor

In response to the rising occurrences of identity theft in the United States, Elon has recently completed a transition from using Social Security numbers to access student records to using student ID numbers, also known as Datatel numbers.

"This is to protect our students, faculty and staff," said Chris Fulkerson, director of Campus and Instructional Technologies. "It's a problem because you want some-

thing that identifies a person that is unique and there really is no other single, national identifier."

The Datatel system is comprised of a series of integrated records. Every student, faculty member and organization that interacts with the university is given a unique Datatel profile which, until recently, contains and could be accessed by a Social Security number. Fulkerson explained that Elon has phased out using Social Security

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P14: Bargain hunting: Students shop single-price dollar stores as alternative to larger retailers.

P17: Book review: "Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs" provides off-beat look at American pop culture.