

## The Pendulum

Established 1974

## Christmas: A final distraction

With all of the Christmas decorations springing up around campus, it's hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner. It seems like only yesterday professors were handing out the syllabus and students were telling themselves that they really were going to read all of the chapters this year. And now finals are here and everyone is frantically trying to read a semester's worth of material in one short week.

With all of the madness of finals, it is important to take a step back and celebrate the upcoming holidays with the surrogate family you have developed at college. Take a break tonight and head out to Fonville Fountain to drink some hot chocolate and sing Christmas carols with your friends and Elon faculty. Or expand your horizons and attend the Moravian Lovefeast with your friends on Sunday. Or just take a study break to drive around town and check out the Christmas lights - ranging from classy to trashy.

However you decide to celebrate the upcoming break, it's extremely important to take the time to do it. Don't let yourself get stressed out worrying about finals. In the grand scheme of life, finals are only a minor blip on the radar screen. Christmas is a time for friends, family, laughter and fun. And after finals, you have a three whole weeks to get ready to do it all again.

## 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.

To reach The Pendulum at 233 Moseley Center, call 278-7247 or fax 278-7246. Contact The Pendulum by e-mail at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). Visit our Web site at [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum).

Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

## Remembering Elon's 'Danieley Dave'

**Tim Taylor**  
Columnist

I remember walking into the Daniel Commons as a nervous freshman not knowing what to order or anything else about Elon University. I stood in line, waited my turn and took a chance on a chicken tender wrap. After gazing at the menu for a few minutes I looked up to see the man behind the grill, "Danieley Dave." He wore a chef's hat and kind of looked like the chef from "The Muppet Show."

After I placed my order, I told him I would like Ranch dressing on my wrap. He flipped that bottle in the air and drew a smiley face on my cooking wrap. He greeted me with a smile and that never changed over the next three months.

I looked forward to going into the Commons just to talk to Dave. He was always very polite and had the ability to spark a conversation with anyone. Dave

never talked about his family or anything else in his life; he always seemed to talk about everything else going on in our lives and at Elon.

Dave was taken away from the Elon family at a very early age of 53. It is hard for us to notice in our tiny world of Elon that there is so much more out there. Dave was the kind of guy who brought a smile to your face and made a difference in your lives whether you realized it or not. He was that guy who seemed to always make you feel better no matter how stressed or depressed you were. I am sure he didn't know my name, but he seemed to always remember my face and my order.

Dave was not only a master of the chicken tender wrap or an outstanding chef at the commons. Dave was a man who I made a difference and helped us all get through our days. He is another example that we have to stay on the positive side of life and smile.

We can make a difference like Dave did and we don't have to cure cancer to do it. Just smile when you see people, even if you don't know them, because you never know how much that random smile or wave will help that person.

Even though I am only a freshman and only knew Dave for three months, Dave left that impression on me. He was a hardworking, outstanding man who made everyone around him feel better. The best lesson we can learn from Dave is the idea of working hard, making people smile and making everyday count. Life is too short to let smiles go wasted or to not appreciate the time we have left on this Earth.

Thanks, Dave, for teaching us all this, and hopefully we will one day turn out just as positive about life as you were.

Contact Tim Taylor at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.

## Mailbox

### Tour guides are not 'sugar coating'

To the Editor,

As a tour guide, I don't consider omitting certain information to be sugar-coating Elon to the potential students. Campus tours are designed to highlight Elon's positive features, not to point out problem areas. I believe most students expect any tour at any University to show off its features. Personally, I don't really care about the negative aspects as long as the school appears to have what I am looking for.

Elon is not a dry campus and that information alone should be enough to give potential students a general idea of the role alcohol plays on campus. However, Elon does abide by all state laws. Consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal and Elon does incorporate this into its alcohol policy.

Many questions about Greek Life are asked on the tours. Although alcohol may play a large role in many Greek activities, I do not feel that we as guides downplay the role of Greeks on campus. Elon is only 36 percent Greek, and this percentage includes the honorary and professional fraternities as well as the social ones. MTV has redefined Greek life for many high school students who are clueless about college frats and sororities. However, the Greeks at Elon are nothing like what is seen on television. Elon owns each of the houses in the Loy Center and each organization on campus is nationally affiliated. Those seen on MTV are not nationally affiliated and are not depicted as how most Greek organizations are actually run. No lie, no sugar-coating. What is seen on television doesn't happen at Elon.

Most students do not choose a

school based upon the role alcohol plays on campus. If for some reason alcohol is the deciding factor, I would be more than happy to answer any questions the student has individually once the group tour is finished. The role of Greek Life could possibly sway a student's decision, but information provided on the tour is not misleading. I feel it irrelevant to talk extensively about alcohol consumption or Greek Life while giving a tour and choose to wait for specific questions to give more details.

- Colleen Corrigan '06

### Correction

In the Nov. 20 edition of The Pendulum Liza Schriemer was spelled incorrectly.