

THE PENDULUM

Volume 29, Issue 17

February 19, 2004

www.elon.edu/pendulum

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

Religious Life develops holistic student programs

Jessica Patchett

Editor in Chief

The Religious Life Office will begin accepting applications for positions as student program directors of the Vera Richardson Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life following an interest meeting next Thursday at 6 p.m. The center, its programs and student directors will benefit from Edna and Douglas Noiles' \$1 million gift to Religious Life last fall, which became one of Elon's largest programmatic endowments last fall.

"We are grateful that we could be instruments in setting something in motion. Now, we can step out of the way and let God keep it going," wrote Edna Noiles in a letter to The Pendulum last week.

The staff of the Religious Life Office took the Noiles' dream for religious life at Elon and outlined

programs designed to nurture students' faith while in college and to prepare students to continue their faith journeys after leaving Elon.

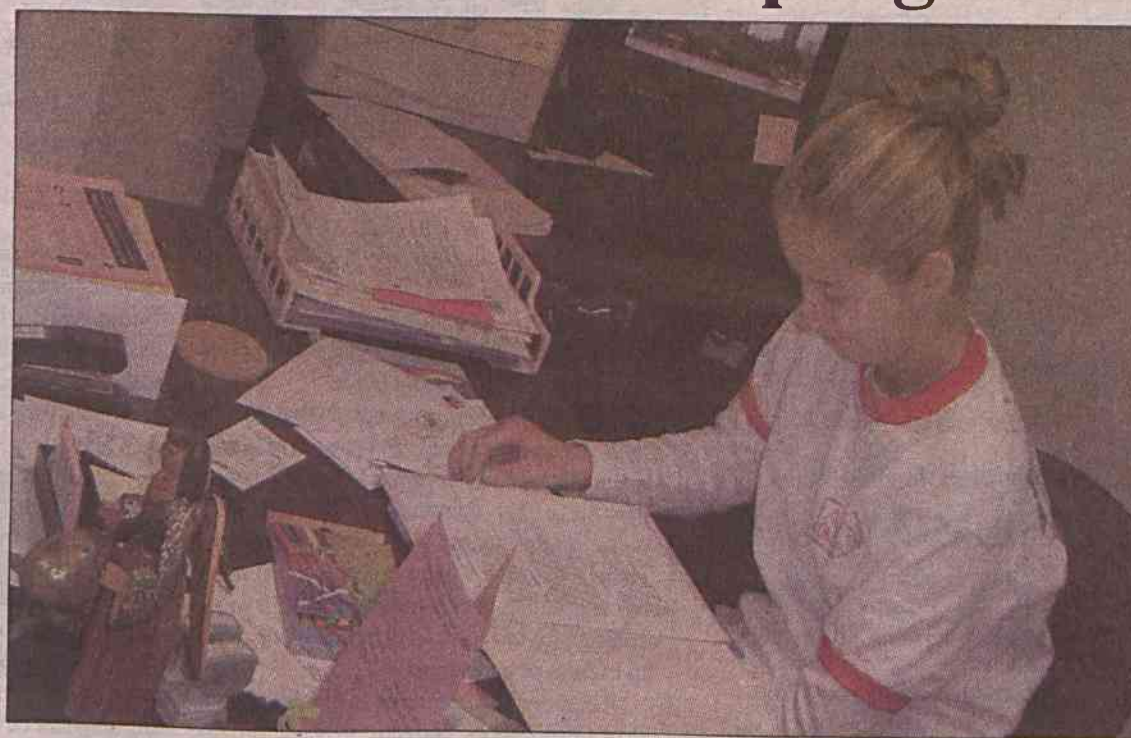
"The ultimate goal is to put planning in the student arena so we address what students are interested in," said Kate Colussy-Estes, assistant chaplain and director of Religious Life.

Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life will focus on seven programmatic areas, including spiritual leaders in residence, interfaith dialogue series, spiritual formation retreats, spiritual formation workshops, living your values programs, Thursday chapel and Sundays @ 5.

The reach of these programs is designed to encompass many faiths and address many aspects of students' lives and growth.

"This will underscore a key

See Endowment p. 8



Bridgette Guedri/ Photographer

Sophomore Kirsten Kolb has been an employee in the Religious Life Office for more than a year. Kolb assists Rene Summers with office work, appointment scheduling and program planning.

Increase in applicants for class of 2008 raises level of competition

Ashley Feibish

Asst. News Editor

Competition is increasing. Elon is averaging a 19 to 20 percent increase in applications for the class of 2008, said Susan Klopman, dean of Admissions and Financial Planning.

Nearly 7,900 applications have been received, compared to 6,595 at this time last year, Klopman said.

This year's freshman class has 1227 students. Next year's is expected to have approximately 1250.

The class of 2007's average SAT score was 1159 and next year's class is projected to have an average SAT score of 1200. As Elon becomes a

more competitive school, it has begun to accept fewer of its total applicants.

"We accepted 45 percent of applicants last year. Right now, it's about 40 percent," Klopman said.

The Fellows program is also experiencing tougher competition. More than 800 applicants applied for the various Fellows programs and 562 are invited to compete during Fellow's Weekend, March 5 through 6. The average SAT score of a Fellows applicant for the class of 2008 is 1283 and the average recalculated core GPA is 4.23, Klopman said.

The increase in the number of prospective students has brought the rolling admissions plan under con-

sideration. The challenge of having more applicants means changes for the admissions' system. Applicants are notified within six to eight weeks after their completed applications are filed, beginning after Oct. 1. Applicants are notified as their applications are received. Under the current rolling admissions plan, the freshman class is generally filled by Feb. 1, according to Elon University's admissions web site.

In response to the large number of applicants, the faculty admissions committee unanimously approved to move in the direction of a deadline admissions plan, Klopman said. A final answer and approval from the Board of Trustees is expected by mid-March. This change would

give a more fair advantage to those students who may decide to apply to Elon later in the year.

A deadline admissions plan would allow students to be accepted early decision or early action, with the final deadline in January. Students not applying early admission or early action would be notified in mid to late March, Klopman said.

Early decision is a binding agreement, meaning if a prospective student is admitted, he must withdraw his applications from other colleges. Early action is not binding, and applications would be due in December.

The process for the early decision plan will not change. Students

applying early decision will be notified starting after Oct. 1. Admissions accepted 310 of 459 early admissions applicants for the class of 2008, Klopman said. These students have priority status for housing and registration.

Early decision students are the only students guaranteed one of their top four housing choices, said Niki Turley, associate director of Residence Life operations and information management.

Even though Elon is seeing an increase in the number of applicants, the number of students admitted will remain about the same. Even with a gradual increase in the number of students attending Elon,

See Admissions p. 8

P11: Beckenham and Wagai to discuss humanitarian aid Monday at Elon Community Church.

P22: Coach Hamilton adds 14 new football players hailing from 6 different states.