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

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OL's prepare for class of 2008



Jeff Heyer /
Photo Editor

Elon Orientation Leaders participated in several team building activities the week before students arrived back on campus. This group of Elon men and women help incoming freshmen students adjust to college life.

Orientation leaders apply for the positions during spring semester and begin meeting before the end of the academic year.

Orientation leaders, in addition to meeting with a group during orientation, will help freshmen move into their dorm rooms.

Freshmen boast better academic records

Andrew S. High
News Editor

As the first day of classes approaches, Elon University welcomes 1,235 freshmen to campus. The class of 2008, hailing from 17 countries and 37 states, has stronger academic credentials than any class before it, featuring an average SAT score of 1169 and an average GPA of 3.6.

The recruitment and admissions process is a long one. In fact, the university finalized its recruitment plans for this year's freshmen before last year's class arrived on campus. Susan Klopman heads the admissions process as the Dean of Admissions and Financial Planning.

"According to the institutional

priorities, we were to admit a class of between 1200 and 1225 with an average SAT of 1165," she said. "Every year before July or by August 1 we have set the priorities for the next year."

Recently, standardized test scores and GPAs have been on the rise amongst incoming students as the applications process has become much more competitive.

"The SAT goes up approximately 10 points on the average every year," Klopman said. "The GPA range doesn't change dramatically but it continues to inch higher. For example, this year the high school grade point average is 3.6. That's what we would have told you it was last year but it would have been 3.59 and this year it's 3.62."

Klopman said the school received 1,000 more applications than last year, due in part to the school's range of attractive programs. Elon accepted 41 percent of applicants.

"We get applications from students with better academic profiles," she said. "If they come in better, then they drive the whole class forward to a higher level. Our best recruiters are our very own students going home and telling others how much they like Elon and value their education here. That is a huge part. Part and parcel of that is I think our fellows programs continue to attract better and better students."

Rosemary Haskell, a professor of English with 19 years of teaching experience at Elon has noticed

a change in the quality of new students, noticing a difference over even five years ago.

"I think students' writing abilities have improved," Haskell said. "I teach college writing and literature. I think on the whole I've seen a steady increase in students' ability to write fairly long, fairly complex papers on a variety of topics. I think writing is being taught more effectively at a lot of high schools."

Klopman said better students are finding out more about Elon as the school has found its way into college ranking publications.

"We're finding that people are reading those," she said. "Between the rankings and the web, people are finding Elon

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