



WHAT YOU DIDN'T
SEE ON THE
TOUR, 8

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW, B1



THE PENDULUM

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Class of 2012 most diverse, brightest set of students yet

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and Andie Diemer
Executive Editors

If there were two words that best describe the 1,290 members of the class of 2012, they would be smart and diverse.

The incoming class boasts one of the highest rates of ethnic diversity in most classes in recent history, with 15 percent of freshmen representing minority groups. It's good news for Elon, since it's an area the university has struggled with.

And while they may be mostly strangers now, they will soon come together for the first of many times to come.

Each new student and their families will congregate at 9 a.m. on Saturday for New Student Convocation Under the Oaks. They'll hear from the leaders of their new community and in full tradition initiate another year of Long Live Elon.

Convocation, which is enshrined as the starting point of an Elon career, will launch with a prelude and academic procession before University Chaplain Richard

McBride will deliver the invocation.

Student Government President Chase Rumley will welcome the 2012 class and Dean of Students Gerald Francis will introduce the class of 2012 and faculty.

The group will learn about joining an academic community and integrity from Jessica Gisclair, associate professor of communications, at Convocation. They will also be addressed by President Leo Lambert.

One out of three students accepted to Elon is expected to be present and listening.

While Elon had a 1 percent increase in applications this year, there were some changes on how students were evaluated when they applied to Elon.

The writing portion of the SAT was used for the first time. Like many other universities, Elon waited a few years to collect data on the writing section before using it as part of the admissions process.

Even though the admission criteria slightly differed, this freshmen class was built by design by the administrators



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Orientation Leaders discuss their goals for orientation week. After arriving on campus to begin their training on Aug. 23, they are finally prepared and eager to help move in and start working with new students today.

and staff in the admissions department.

They were molded after another prestigious group: their predecessors.

After watching the success of the 2011 class, the admissions staff chose to fill out the 2012 class in a similar way.

"We behaved very similarly to last year [in choosing the class]," said Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions. "Overall, it's a really, really strong class. If I had to do it all over again I wouldn't change anything."

While 3 percent of students come from any of 39 countries outside of the

United States and 40 of the 50 states have a presence in the class of 2012, they also come in with a history of academic excellence.

Fifteen high school valedictorians will be on campus this year. The average SAT for the class is 1863 and the mid-range of GPAs is 3.5 to 4.4.

Though in most ways the new freshmen look a lot like last year's, there has been one notable change: the percentage of students coming in "undecided" has been cut from about 25 percent to this year's 17 percent. It's a trend Zaiser

cannot explain, but he said it may mean students are being attracted to Elon for select programs.

Though the admissions team has completed their work with the class of 2012, they're already gearing up for the next admissions cycle.

"We'll be out in full force on [move-in day] to welcome the new class and then as early as Sunday one of our staff members goes to meet with high school seniors," Zaiser said. [For more information regarding an "undecided" major, see page five.]

ELON UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2012: WHO WE ARE

9,434 freshmen applications
1,290 expected enrollment
42 percent acceptance rate
650 graduate students enrolled

Elon's top competitors:

1. UNC Chapel Hill
2. James Madison University
3. N.C. State University

Averages:

3.9 weighted GPA
1863 SAT
40 percent male
60 percent female

Top states represented:

1. North Carolina
2. Maryland, Virginia, NJ
3. Massachusetts

Top majors:

1. Business
2. Communications
3. Biology

15 Valedictorians
14 percent multicultural
39 countries
40 states

INFORMATION COURTESY OF OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Two students robbed in home invasion at Oak Hill

Andie Diemer
News Editor

Two students reported a robbery at their Oak Hill Apartment around 3:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

According to an e-mail sent to students by Dean of Students Smith Jackson Friday morning, two black males and one white male entered the student's unlocked apartment on East Haggard Avenue.

After waking the students,

the robbers took the student's money, Xbox, cell phones and laptop.

While the students were not harmed, they did notice that one of the intruders had a handgun.

The robbers immediately fled in an unknown vehicle. Campus police are currently collaborating with the Town of Elon Police to track down the burglars.

Chuck Gantos, director of campus safety and police, said campus police passed a lead onto the Elon police not long after the incident occurred.

Elon Police are currently following up on that lead,

along with several others.

The students were not able to provide a description of the robbers nor their vehicle.

Elon detective Kelly Blackwelder said at this point her department is not sure who the intruders are, since it is a fresh investigation and they have very limited information to go on.

"When you deal with a situation like this, especially very dramatic instances, the victims tend to not be focusing on physical descriptions of people and tend to feel very surreal," she said.

She said her department is reaching out to the

community and other investigators to see if any other possible suspects pop up that fit this description.

"Students need to stay vigilant, as far as their awareness of their surroundings," Gantos said. "A crime can happen anywhere. You need to understand that and always think one is going to happen so you can go over in your mind what you would do so you're somewhat prepared if something does happen."

If you have any information about this incident, please contact the Town of Elon police at 336-584-1301.

Stay smart, stay safe:

- Always walk in pairs when in public.
- Plan what to do if someone did break in.
- Keep a cell phone near your bed at night.
- Lock doors as soon as you get home and while sleeping.
- Call 911 immediately if you have an incident.
- Remember features about the persons' appearance such as their dress, vehicle or direction they left in.