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LEADING UP TO COMMENCEMENT:

Commencement rehearsal  
"Salute Your Seniors" senior picnic  
"We are ALL THAT" senior gala  
ROTC commissioning ceremony

Baccalaureate  
Leaders of the 21st Century  
MBA graduation  
and more

FULL COMMENCEMENT COVERAGE:

Photo slideshow  
Time lapse of graduation day  
Recap of the day

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McBride prepares for final chapter as chaplain



# THE PENDULUM

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## Jumping for joy



Seniors Danielle Durst, left, and Stacy Laue, two senior class officers, jump through the commemorative balloon archway at the senior picnic Wednesday afternoon. Seniors were able to reminisce on their past four years with faculty, staff and friends.

## Picnic kicks off senior week

Ashley Barnas  
Online Editor-in-Chief

Walking under the arch of maroon and gold balloons topped with "2009" was one way to mark the beginning of senior events leading up to today's commencement. The "Salute Your Seniors" senior class picnic Wednesday was a way to reconnect with friends, faculty and staff that the seniors may not have seen in the past few years.

Blowing in the light breeze were paper graduation caps with names scrawled in silver that lined the food tents to mark the seniors who donated to the class gift, endowed scholarships for study abroad.

"I thought it was a good way to contribute back to the school," senior Dan Sembler said. "And I wanted to make sure I could do that in some way and this seemed the best way to do it."

The feelings were bittersweet as hugs were passed out, hands were shaken and words of congratulations and sentiments were exchanged in the sunshine.

"I think one of the best parts about today is everyone getting to celebrate in a relaxed environment," said Lindsay Hege, assistant director of alumni relations for young alumni. "It allows them a chance to get together, talk about what the year has meant to them and talk about their plans for the future."

## Elon's 30,000th graduate to walk the stage this year

Laura Smith  
News Editor

Today, 1,179 Elon University students, both undergraduate and graduate, will receive their diplomas signifying their graduation and the finale to the accomplishments they have achieved during their time at Elon.

"It's a commencement that every senior remembers," said Susan Patton, associate registrar. "It is very well thought out... it's done for the student."

In addition to having the honor of handing the diplomas to registrar Mark Albertson during the ceremony, Patton will hand over the 30,000th diploma in Elon history this year.

Senior Susan Fetch from Cary, N.C. will be the one to accept this significant diploma. This of course can change depending on students being dropped from graduation in light of failed grades or other reasons.

Fetch is a music education major and is also a member of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program. She is hoping to teach high school chorus.

Fetch calls her years at Elon "an amazing journey."

"It's just been a dynamic experience I never thought I would have when I came to college," she said.

In addition to the Teaching Fellows program, Fetch has studied abroad for a semester in London and has completed multiple education practicums at elementary, middle and high school levels.

She is also a member of

CMENC, which is the collegiate version of the music education conference, and of Mu Phi Epsilon, Elon's music fraternity.

Like many of the other 1,179 students, Fetch is anticipating the future that awaits her after Elon.

"I'm looking forward to being able to start the new part of my life and the new chapter," she said.

The milestone of the 30,000th diploma is just one of the many significant awards given throughout the ages as more students continue to walk across the stage Under the Oaks.

The graduating class of 1910 marked the 200th diploma given, having only 17 graduates in the class that year.

The first graduating class in 1891 had three graduates and in 1986, when many of today's graduating seniors were born, there were only 451.

Last year, there were 1,216 graduating seniors.

Patton said she hopes the number of graduates will remain around the same number as today.

"I'd like to see it stay about the same because we have a nice commencement," she said. "We want it to be as personal as possible."

Elon's graduation ceremony is in its 118th year.

"I truly believe Elon students are fully prepared when they graduate," Patton said. "The ceremony itself gives the senior and the parent the honor they have of crossing this milestone."



Susan Fetch  
Music Education

## School of Law celebrates charter class

Margeaux Corby  
News Editor

Elon School of Law will graduate its inaugural class of 107 students this weekend, with David Gergen delivering the school's first ever commencement address in downtown Greensboro on Sunday.

Gergen is world-renowned for his prowess in the areas of politics and education, serving as director of communications for President Reagan, senior political analyst for CNN and director of the Center for Public Leadership at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He also holds the title of chair of the Elon School of Law Advisory

Board. His address will be followed by a procession to the graduating classes' reception in Center City Park in Greensboro.

Elon University's School of Law opened in 2006, two years after the university board of trustees launched the law school initiative with Greensboro community leaders. The school was formally dedicated by former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in September.

"It's quite clear that Elon Law is already a force with which to be reckoned," O'Connor said at the September 19, 2006 dedication ceremony. "You have created a marvelous law school facility here.

It's equipped to meet the demands of contemporary legal education."

Although the class has only spent three years at Elon Law, these third-year law students have contributed more than 21,000 hours of community service to the Triad, established the Law School Alumni Association and have been featured in Greensboro News and Record columns.

"You have shaped the character of the law school and established a tradition of excellence that will benefit future classes for years to come," Lambert told charter class members at the President's Reception for third year students last week. "Largely as a result of what you have done in creating a culture of engaged

learning, community service, and public leadership, I can already see that Elon University School of Law is going to make significant impacts on legal education across the country."

### SERVICE HOURS COMPLETED BY CLASS OF 2009 HONOR

- 760 hours providing free legal assistance in partnership with Legal Aid of North Carolina
- 500 hours mentoring high school students about the intricacies of practicing law
- 280 hours investigating innocence claims made by prisoners through the university's Innocence Project
- 160 hours offering free wills clinic for low-income residents to assist with estate planning and will drafting

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