

Welcome students and parents!

MOVE-IN EDITION 2009

THE PENDULUM

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Early arrivals bring life back to Elon's campus



The colorguard practices three times a day for almost two weeks prior to the start of classes. A typical daily schedule has the members awake for a 9:30 a.m. to noon session, followed by a 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. practice and a concluding practice from 6:30 p.m. to either 9:30 or 10 p.m.

Christina Edwards
Copy Editor

Though new-student orientation and move-in days didn't officially begin until today, signs of student life have been trickling back onto Elon's campus since the beginning of the month. Students involved in athletics, residence life, marching band and orientation cut their summer short to prepare for the upcoming semester.

"It was hard to leave home again when I knew I could have more time with my family, but I knew

RA training would be a great experience," said sophomore Elisa Cooper, who has taken an RA position in the learning community she joined as a freshman.

Other students were more excited about packing up and heading to Elon early.

Senior Stuart Richie and junior Jordan McNeill, both captains of Elon's colorguard, returned to campus Aug. 15. The rest of the team joined their captains Aug. 19.

"It is beneficial for the freshmen to get here early because they get exposed to older members and the

tricks of the trade," Richie said.

The group practices three times a day for almost two weeks before school begins.

"We come back early to put all this effort and hard work to give the best that we can in our performance for the band, the school and the enjoyment of everyone out there," Richie said.

But colorguard is not the only organization investing time before school starts to train for the upcoming semester.

"The RA training is long and hard, but worthwhile," sophomore

Jenna Thrash said. "Plus, my friends from home were heading back to school around the same time, and I worked full time this summer and needed the change. It's always hard to leave my home, family and friends, but I was ready to come back to Elon. I missed it."

Sophomore Katie Seringer, who headed back to campus last week for orientation leader training, agrees.

"I miss my friends and family and my dog, but it's fun to be back at Elon," she said. "Campus is pretty empty, but it still feels like home."

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Irazu reenergizes, revamps The Zone

Katherine Koch
Reporter

The Zone, originally constructed as a campus hang out, is about to get a caffeine boost.

"When students have been asked what they would like to see The Zone space include, a coffee shop has been the consistent answer," said Vickie Somers, director of auxiliary services.

This fall, students will get exactly what they asked for when Rod Salazar, the owner of local coffee shop Irazu, opens up his second shop on Elon's campus.

Elon chose Irazu to move in instead of a corporation, like Starbucks.

Starbucks is a well-known franchise and can be found at more than 100 college campuses across the country. While Starbucks is a good fit for those other places, Somers said Irazu is more appropriate for Elon.

"We did explore the possibility of a Starbucks coffee shop, but that option was extremely expensive since Starbucks has very specific guidelines that must be followed in design, layout, furniture and equipment," Somers said.

Jodean Schmiederer, assistant dean of students, said Irazu was selected because of student feedback.

"Students wanted a shop that would be invested in the community," Schmiederer said. "Students know that supporting a local business over a large corporation would help to stimulate the local economy."

Irazu is also a family-run business.

"We plan on hiring students and local people to work in the shop so that we keep the money in the school and in the community," Salazar said. "We tend to be very community-oriented. The economic crisis can be traced to huge corporations not supporting the local community."

Although Irazu is not as world-known as Starbucks, it already has a great reputation around the Elon campus. Both Salazar and Schmiederer said many Elon students are already frequent customers at Irazu's original location in Burlington.

The administration acknowledged that The Zone is not as popular as the university hoped it would be.

But Salazar said he believes by bringing the Irazu atmosphere to Elon they will revitalize The Zone.

"I think that there is great potential for The Zone," he said. "We are going to try and transfer the Irazu environment to The Zone. We will have a lot of places to sit and there will be background music. It will be a place to hang out, study and chat with friends."

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New class joins Elon's community

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

Nearly 1,300 young adults will crowd Elon's campus this weekend, an increasing number of these new students traveling from the Northeast, most planning to major in business and all making up one of Elon's largest freshmen class yet.

Despite worries that the university wouldn't be able to enroll the 1,275 students needed, 1,298 students comprise the class of 2,013, according to the early August numbers projected by the office of admissions.

"It's a great class," said Greg Zaiser, dean of admissions. "It is without a doubt what we wanted."

The new Phoenix have an average SAT score of 1842, slightly lower than last year's freshmen class average of 1863, but students' average weighted GPA has risen from 3.90 to 3.96.

Ethnic diversity has dropped one percentage point from last year, meaning self-identified multicultural students make

up 13 percent of the class.

Zaiser said the decrease is most likely the result of the economy and is something the university is continually working to increase. Similarly, he said senior staff hopes to increase the male percentage, which continues to remain unmoved from years past at 40 percent.

One of the biggest changes from last fall's freshmen class is the number of students hailing from the Northeast.

Maryland and Virginia have long been the second-most top states represented, but both have been bumped down to third.

With North Carolina residents still reigning at 24 percent of the class, Massachusetts and New Jersey tied for second at 9 percent, unseating Maryland and Virginia, now represented by 7 percent.

"Massachusetts has long been on the rise," Zaiser said. "I think New Englanders are very interested in the South and Elon is a very popular place. We've been really working in Massachusetts and they've discovered us."

The unbeatable trio of business, communications and biology majors continue to be the most popular, although for the first time engineering has slipped into the mix as the 10th most popular major for incoming freshmen.

Engineering majors earn two degrees: a bachelor's at Elon in one of five concentrations, and a bachelor's in engineering from an engineering school they will transfer to after their first three years at Elon.

"It's a very unusual program," Zaiser said. "It's very strong and there are not many schools that have programs like that. It is really an advantage to the student."

Zaiser emphasized that building the freshmen class, from the applications to acceptance to eventual enrollment, is not done in a vacuum. Everyone, Zaiser said, not just admissions, has an interest in Elon and attracting students to campus.

"We don't do this alone," he said. "Everyone of the faculty and staff runs this ship. We administer the process, but it's a community effort."

BY THE NUMBERS

2 percent international students

3.96 weighted GPA

12 valedictorians

13 percent multicultural

26 percent attended private school

67 percent attended public high school

70 percent top quartile of graduating high school class

388 Presidential Scholar Recipients

1842 SAT
NUMBERS ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL ENROLLMENT AUG. 31

TOP STATES REPRESENTED

24 percent North Carolina

9 percent Massachusetts, New Jersey

7 percent Maryland, Virginia

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS