



THE PENDULUM

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CONVOCATION '09



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
Student marshals pass out acorns to members of the class of 2013 after New Student Convocation on Saturday. President Leo Lambert called the acorns "a symbol of the promise of an Elon education." Like the acorn, he said students have everything within them to grow and become strong.



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
Freshmen moved to Elon Friday with the help of 95 Orientation Leaders and 80 representatives from ResLife. Nearly 1,300 freshmen dragged their parents, bedspreads, boxes and books to campus.

Class of 2013 charged with years of discovery, self-reflection, growth

Ashley Barnas
Online Editor-in-Chief

As the triumphal procession music began, the cloth backdrop of the podium in front of West dormitory parted. From there emerged George Troxler carrying the Elon mace, followed by the robed and rainbow regalia-clad faculty members. Under the Oaks sat the members of the class of 2013, transfer students, family and guests. New Student Convocation then began on the cloudy and cool morning of Aug. 29.

Rather than organizing this year's convocation as he had in years past, Troxler was given the honor of bearing the mace. He passed his torch as dean of cultural and special programs when he retired last spring.

In another new position was Phil Smith, who gave his first invocation as associate chaplain and director of religious life, a task usually set to Chaplain Emeritus Richard McBride.

The ceremony begins with a minister, Smith said, because when Elon's founders stood beneath the grove of oaks where the class of 2013 now sat, they envisioned an institution where mind, body and spirit would be enhanced and transformed. He said the spiritual dimension of life is celebrated and honored at Elon, as is the quest for finding a purpose and meaning in life.

To the "God of new beginnings," Smith led a prayer for the students to discover and develop their true

selves during their time at Elon, and for the parents and loved ones to "find a deep sense of comfort."

"May the years ahead be filled with the joy of discovery for each and every one of us," Smith said.

Junior Justin Peterson, SGA president, welcomed the class and took a quick photo of everyone from his podium view. He told the students to create a mindset to "enjoy (the) time because it goes faster than I can explain."

Peterson had student-athletes raise their hands and told the audience at least one of these players would score a winning point. The scholarship recipients were also asked to raise their hands, as well as the students who thought they might not have been accepted at Elon. Peterson said one of them may become the next student body president, because he belonged to that group of unsure applicants as a freshman.

"You are now a voice on campus," Peterson said. "And as the freshman class, you are usually the loudest."

Vice President and Dean of Student Life Smith Jackson presented the class of 2013 to Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs. The students come from 39 states, the District of Columbia and 28 countries.

"This class will enrich Elon University," Jackson said.

House welcomed the dynamic new class and

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Former RA charged with possession of property stolen from residents

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

An Elon student and former Colonnades A resident assistant was charged with possessing property stolen from dorm rooms of his residents last week.

Amir Mohammed Shafiq-Khan was charged with misdemeanor possession of stolen goods/property on Wednesday after campus police found laptops, cameras, an iPod, a Rolex watch, a diamond and ruby bracelet and expensive purses in his 2004 Volkswagen Jetta, said Director of Campus Safety and Police Chuck Gantos.

Gantos said the total value of the 47 items found in Shafiq-Khan's car is still being calculated. Strong speculation exists, he said, that the accumulated value of stolen items will be more than \$1,000, meaning Shafiq-Khan's former misdemeanor warrant will be changed to a felony in the next couple of days.

Although the former resident assistant has not been charged with breaking and entering or larceny at this time, Gantos said 46 of the 47 stolen items have been identified as belonging to students and parents of students who resided in Colonnades Building A.

"At the point we arrested him, he invoked his rights and did not discuss with us the details surrounding this," Gantos said.

Shafiq-Khan became a person of suspicion in connection with six dorm room break-ins occurring at the Colonnades during the spring semester in early August.

A resident alerted campus police, Gantos said, after he had been contacted by a man who had purchased a MacBook from Shafiq-Khan through a social networking site and found the resident's personal information on the laptop. The man agreed to purchase another laptop from Shafiq-Khan, with money provided by police, and found the serial numbers matched those of a second laptop stolen from another Colonnades A resident.

"We had word he had a laptop for sale and we arranged for that sale to take place," Gantos said. "That allowed us to secure a search warrant."

Joel Slocum, president of Resident Student Association, refused to comment upon the situation or any new measures RSA might take to prevent such incidents from reoccurring in the future.

Shafiq-Khan was released the same day of his arrest after securing bail. Gantos said they have no other suspects at this time.

Bats found inside Virginia residence hall

Ashley Barnas
Online Editor-in-Chief

A large number of live bats were found in Virginia residence hall in West Area last week. No students were harmed or came in contact with them.

"We had a couple reports about bats earlier last week," said Robert Buchholz, director of Physical Plant.

Though the exact number is not known, numerous bats were then found in the attic.

Buchholz said he invited someone from nuisance control to investigate the situation, who suggested all the small crevices in the residence hall be tightened up so a bat can no longer fit through. Crevices as small as the width of the tip of a pinky finger will be secured.

Such crevices may have opened up because of weather and other natural causes such as aging.

Buchholz said the tightening up process took place Thursday night. Bats will leave the attic to fly around outside, allowing workers to go into the attic and seal everything.

A device being installed in the attic will allow the bats to crawl out for their nighttime flight, but will be hinder them from flying back inside.

"There were only around 14 students that were early check-ins," Buchholz said.

A meeting with the students was held last night to see if any of them came in contact with the bats or if they had seen them in their rooms or hallways. There was one report of seeing a bat flying around the third floor, which initially led to the investigation of

the attic.

Buchholz said the 14 students that were living in Virginia before school started were kept out of the dorm the night the bats were discovered. But early morning move-in on Friday continued uninterrupted.

Smith Jackson, vice president of student life and dean of students, wrote in an e-mail to students, faculty and staff, "Should you see any bats inside a university building, please contact the Physical Plant immediately at 278-5500 during normal working hours, or contact Campus Security at 278-5555 after hours."

Between 2 and 6 percent of bats carry rabies, which can be transmitted to humans through bites. Per the Humane Society, bats are non-aggressive creatures that will only bite in self-defense. However, if you are bitten by a bat, you will want to be examined."