

NEWS BRIEFS

Elon to hold interest meeting to coordinate Haitian relief efforts

On Jan. 19 a meeting will be held for student groups, classes and individuals that have an interest in raising money or providing other assistance to the people of Haiti in the wake of the recent earthquake.

The meeting will be held at noon in Moseley 215.

Women can register for recruitment

If interested in joining a sorority, Elon women are encouraged to register for recruitment. All freshman, sophomore and junior women with a GPA of at least 2.75 and 12 Elon credit hours may apply. Winter Term grades are not taken into consideration.

Recruitment week will be held Jan. 27-31, with convocation beginning at 7 p.m. on Jan. 26.

For more information, contact Panhellenic Executive Director of Recruitment Jen DiVenuti at jdivenuti@elon.edu.

Register for men's fraternite recruitment

There are only four weeks left to register for men's recruitment. Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA, at least 12 credit hours at Elon and must be in good standing with the university.

For more information, contact Director of Recruitment Patrick Holloway at jholloway7@elon.edu.

Elon set to change graduate admissions exam next year

Alexa Sykes
Reporter

Students applying to graduate schools next year will be the first to take the revamped GRE, whose changes will be in effect starting in 2011.

While some of the alterations are minimal, the most drastic include 30 extra minutes of testing time, the option of revisiting a question for the computer formatted test and a complete modification of the grading scale, according to the Education Testing Service (ETS).

Jenny Ruggieri, assistant director of graduate admissions, said the GRE has proposed changes in the past but were never put into action. Ruggieri speculates that the changes in the exam correlate with the changes in the types of students. "I think some of the reasoning for the change has to do with the changing market of the student population and pure competitive edge (of) the GMAT, which is the entrance exam for most business schools," Ruggieri said.

According to an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the primary objective of the change is to "encourage more-accurate comparisons between test takers." The GRE will no longer include antonym or analogy questions, reading-comprehension exercises will replace them.

The prompts that students will receive on the exam will be more focused, ensuring graders will be certain the answer was written in response to the question, and not simply memorized.

In Ruggieri's opinion, the biggest change is the grading scale transformation. Currently, students are graded on a 200-800 scale, with 10-point increments that represent each additional correct answer.

The new scale will be graded between 130 and 170 points, with one-point increments. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, this will advance more accurate comparisons between test takers, and overall, make the exam more competitive.

Question format will also change. Instead of question-by-question, the test will be divided by section, giving students more time to review their answers.

"This alleviates the pressure to answer a question if students don't know the answer right away ... this could provide more correct answers simply because students don't feel as rushed," Ruggieri said.

Senior Katie Strickland said taking the exam on a computer was difficult compared to tests on papers, where one can always go back and recheck work.

The final change in the exam is the quantitative portion will now allow an online calculator.

"(This change) will be great for those who feel math is their weak point ... I think the use of a calculator will alleviate some anxiety for those that stress about the math questions," Ruggieri said.

Despite these changes, Ruggieri does not anticipate any substantial changes regarding preparation for the exam.

Senior Janet Schribler, recommends students should not procrastinate and educate themselves on the format and content of the test. "The thought of taking a test can be overwhelming, so the more time a student gives themselves to prepare, the better," she said.

While the above changes have been implemented to ensure that students are as prepared as possible for graduate school, only time will tell. When asked if the changes will make the GRE better or worse, Ruggieri said, "(it's) to be determined."

News Analysis: The true cost of a natural disaster

Justin Berger
Columnist

Tragedies, ranging from individual to international, have a tendency to expose peoples' most genuine character.

The current situation in Haiti is a tragedy that brought about reactions and responses on a global scale.



Justin Berger
Columnist

Comments and concerns have inundated all sources of information: television, newspaper and social networking.

This level of support hasn't been seen since the tsunami that struck in Southeast Asia, which killed more than a quarter-million people.

Online media such as Facebook and Twitter have become extremely popular outlets for passing information along for the ordinary citizen. During this catastrophe, social media has allowed pictures and stories from ordinary Haitian citizens to reach people around the world. Everyone with access to a computer then has the ability to respond with prayers, questions, and comments as to how they can help--and help is desperately needed.

Initial estimates for the earthquake that struck Haiti put the death toll at nearly an eighteenth of the entire country's population. The problem remains that it has proven difficult for aid workers to get relief to citizens in need.

The issue has been getting the needed supplies on the island. Many of the ports have been damaged, and the country only has four paved runways suitable for large cargo planes.

Progress will take more than just the initial relief efforts from around the world to help the people of Haiti.

Change starts with getting food and water to the people of the country immediately. Law could break down if the basic necessities are not made available soon.

Infrastructure—which was minimal before the earthquake struck—has to be repaired and updated. With 80 percent of its citizens below the poverty line, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

A chain of command needs to be set up through the U.N. until the Haitian government is back at operating capacity. As it is right now, leaving the Haitian government in charge of the relief effort is a bigger hindrance than help, as they do not have the organization or the resources to handle objectives effectively. The relief effort is underway. The U.S. government has been temporarily assigned the job of overseeing operations at the main airport.

If the situation in Haiti is handled correctly, it could mean positive changes for the Haitian people. The objectives of the global community should be focused on long-term changes and not just treating the initial shock.

In order for any major economic changes to take place, the international relief needs to remain long enough to make fundamental changes as opposed to just a superficial rescue.

Paylor receives retribution in case, settles for cash

TASER from page 1

force showed by Dunn was excessive and that the officers who stood by failed to recognize this and stop him. The court documents also claimed the Town of Elon Police Department inadequately trained its officers in use of Tasers.

Andrews was in charge of training Elon police officers on how to use the Taser. According to the terms of the agreement, the town will now have to look for training classes outside of the department and Andrews still remains a member of the force.

While an agreement has been made, fundamental differences in the stories still remain.

An incident on June 17, 2006, led to the events the next day. Paylor was driving home when he came across the scene of an accident on University Drive.

He was told by one officer that he could drive through to Manning Ave., according to Paylor's attorney. Town of Elon Chief of Police LaVell Lovette said no officer told Paylor he could drive through the accident.

Lovette said the scene was of a particularly bad accident, one in which victims were being airlifted to hospitals. She said when Paylor drove through, he nearly hit Elon Campus Safety and Police Captain Vickie Moehlman.

Lovette said members of the department initially attempted to obtain a warrant for assault on an officer, but were given reckless driving instead. Paylor was also charged with cursing on a public highway and failure to obey a law enforcement officer.

Dunn went to Paylor's house the next night to arrest him. He was accompanied by Giannotti, Ripple and Andrews.

Lovette said that because Paylor had a history of violence, the officers felt it was necessary to bring four to serve the warrant. She said typically when dealing with someone who has a police record of violence, the department



VIDEO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ELON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Four Elon police officers stand over John Paylor while they attempt to handcuff him. Moments earlier, Paylor was shot with a Taser twice by officer Dunn. Photo taken from a police video of the incident in question.

sends at least two officers.

"They made the claim he was potentially violent," said Coble. "I don't think he's dangerous at all, I find him to be a very pleasant person."

According to police records, Paylor has been in jail twice, once for assault and once for a motor vehicle violation.

Security tapes from a police vehicle show Paylor be shot with a Taser by Dunn, and moments later, when he is lying on the ground, shot again. Lovette said the second charge was justified because he was given multiple opportunities to comply while the police officers told him to put his hands behind his back.

"I think if you look at what happened," Coble said referring to the tapes, "it speaks for itself."

According to the terms of the agreement, the Town of Elon is supposed to address issues outlined by

the ACLU's case.

"Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the Elon Police Department will implement measures designed to prevent excessive and unnecessary use of Tasers in the future. In particular, Elon police officers will undergo improved annual training on a new Taser policy and on Elon's more general use-of-force policy," the ACLU said in a press release.

Dula said that the town has reviewed the policies they currently use in regards to using Tasers. "We didn't really change a lot," he said. "We just said we would take suggestions."

Lovette said that practices at the department are already within compliance of the ACLU's desires. "Our (Taser) policy is very much in compliance with what the ACLU wanted and what the department agreed upon," she said.