

Nicholas Kristof to address students at Spring Convocation

by Anna Johnson, April 6, 2010

Two Pulitzer Prizes, three books, 140 countries visited, 26 years as a New York Times reporter and one stop at Elon University. Journalist Nichol Kristof will headline Elon's Spring Honor Convocation and installation of the academic society Phi Beta Kappa at 3:30 p.m Tuesday, April 13 in Alumni Gym.

Kristof's convocation address is titled, "A Call to Action: Encouraging Young People to Join the 'World's Fight' and Take on a Cause Larger than Themselves."

Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, said Kristof is a highly respected journalist and author. He said Kristof is well versed in "global history," and students can learn a great deal from his travels.

"It is a call to action to break out of our isolated world and become involved in global issues," Parsons said. "It is good for all of us to hear this. I spend most of my day thinking of things close to me and my job. And it is good to be challenged to see the bigger picture."

Kristof is one of the few Americans to trek to Iraq, Iran and North Korea, the three countries former President George W. Bush referred to as the "axis of evil." In Kristof's semiweekly columns, the focus tends to be on global health, poverty and gender issues in the developing world. He was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Following the convocation Elon Society members, students to be inducted into the society and Phi Beta Kappa members are invited to Lindner Hall patio for a reception before the formal induction of the students at 7:30 p.m. in McKinnon Hall in the Moseley Center.

"(Kirstof) is known as a wonderful speaker with a tremendous way with words," Parsons said. "And he is a deep thinker, something Phi Beta Kappa is known for."

Elon is one of seven institutions in North Carolina to have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. The academic organization is for students ranked in the top 10 percent in the arts and science majors and typically show "outstanding scholarship, leadership, multicultural awareness and foreign language proficiency," as stated on the recent E-Net article about Phi Beta Kappa.

Admission is \$12 or free with an Elon ID.

Check The Pendulum Online for live coverage of Kristof's speech and the Phi Beta Kappa installation April 13.

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