

Elon recognized as 'Great College to Work For'

Janae Frazier
Reporter

Elon University was recently recognized on The Chronicle of Higher Education's 2010 list of "Great Colleges to Work For," an honor that did not surprise Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life.

"(The recognition) was just an affirmation of what a great place Elon is," he said.

Jackson said he believes the faculty and staff like to work at Elon because it is a special place that appreciates their talents and values the dedication of everyone.

"From the grandest strategic planning discussions, to the most mundane everyday meetings, and across all units within the university, Elon is constantly striving to make real what we have come to know to be the elements of the best college experience," said Tim Peeples, associate provost for faculty affairs.

Elon University was specifically recognized for its collaborative governance, teaching environment, facilities, work spaces and security, confidence in senior leadership, respect and appreciation.

"It's always great to be recognized for excellence, especially when your institution is one of only 39 institutions out of 275 given Honor Roll distinction and singled out as one of the best 10 in no fewer than five categories," Peeples said.

Jackson said he believes the categories Elon was recognized for merely describe many of Elon's strengths.

"We all appreciate the strong sense of community we enjoy where people are respected for their views and who they are, and do take the time to appreciate each other's contributions, while also giving critical feedback on ways we can be even better," he said.

Dan Anderson, assistant vice president and director of university relations, said he feels collaborative governance is

particularly strong at Elon.

According to Anderson, the administration allocates decision making among faculty and staff, meaning all employees at Elon are included in determining the direction of the university. This in turn gives satisfaction to faculty and staff because their voices are heard.

Confidence in senior leadership was also a significant category. According to Anderson, President Leo Lambert has been at Elon since 1999, and the faculty and staff are satisfied with his wisdom and collaborative nature.

"The senior leadership is a collection of highly talented, ethical and innovative professionals who work well together as a team and keep the best interests of students, faculty and staff in mind," Jackson said.

He also works to make the institution excel into the future.

"(My department) has worked hard to

enhance the support and opportunities faculty have to grow and thrive as teacher-scholars, to attract and retain a world-class faculty dedicated to engaged learning," Peeples said.

Peeples said he was personally attracted to the university because of its commitment to engaged learning and the teacher scholar-model.

Ron Klepcyk, director of human services, has been at Elon for 33 years and said he loves working at Elon.

The university is constantly changing and doing innovative things in order to improve, he said.

"Elon has a strong 'esprit de corps' around the idea that we can constantly improve the student experience and make our mark on the national landscape of higher education as an innovative academic community that is student centered and progressive in its approach to education and students' development," Jackson said.

International Fellows program looks to increase diversity

Rebecca Smith
Reporter

Six percent of students in the class of 2013 are international students, and a new program is in the works to increase this number.

In the fall of 2011, an International Fellows program will join the six existing fellows programs — honors, Elon College, business, communications, teaching and leadership.

"The program is designed to help Elon attract more international students," said Woody Pelton, dean of international programs. "In particular, attracting more students who are nationals of another country and would need a visa to enter the United States."

Currently, the school is working on the admissions process of the program. This includes recruiting students and preparing materials that explain the scholarships and guidelines involved with the program. Planning for dates for applications is also taking place and figuring out a plan for classes and trips that will be offered for the students.

"In one way it would increase the diversity of our student

population," Pelton said. "Elon is an expensive school for most people that live outside of the United States. A student from outside the country is not eligible for many scholarships, including the Pell Grant and other loans."

Like other fellows programs, there will be requirements for International Fellows. They will have to take specific courses together, in addition to an Elon 101 class, a capstone class and two Winter Term courses.

"For Winter Term programs, we have kicked around different ideas," said Betty Morgan, associate professor of political science. "We believe that initially, one year, we will go to Washington, D.C. and one year we will go on a tour through the southern United States. This will help them learn about the richness of southern history."

Some of the additional services and classes that will be available to International Fellows are remedial English and English as a second language. The program will also have ways to help students put down roots in the community.

For incoming students looking to apply for the International Fellows program, the application process will be slightly different from other fellows programs. Students

will not be expected to attend Fellows Weekend during the previous spring as other fellows due.

"We will not make them attend a weekend, because the applicants will all be from outside the country," Pelton said. "It would be unrealistic to ask someone from China to come over for a weekend."

Instead, the process of applying will rely heavily on paper applications and tools such as Skype.

After this application process, the school hopes that 20 students will be in the inaugural class of International Fellows.

"We want students to learn as much from the International Fellows as possible," Morgan said.

The program aims to not only increase the diversity at Elon, but also to increase global awareness of the campus' population.

"We think it's vitally important to learn how to interact with people from different cultures," Morgan said. "If eventually you are assigned to a diverse team at work, it won't be your first time working with people from different backgrounds."

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