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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

stretched thin

Increased tuition price tag leaves families longing for clearance sales

Sam Parker
 Senior Reporter

Although she's still a student, sophomore Rachael Creech said she worries about the educational future of her siblings. The oldest of three children and the only one currently in college, she said she doubts her brother and sister will enjoy the same experiences she's had as a student.

"With my parents sending me to Elon and paying all the money that continues to be increasing, I don't know if my sister will, financially, be able to experience the small private school like I am," Creech said. "If the prices keep going up and my brother goes off to college with the same situation, it will negatively benefit my sister in the long-run."

As Elon's Board of Trustees met in a special session Feb. 14 to discuss the proposed fiscal budget for the 2011-2012 school year, the trustees approved the proposal as is, meaning an increase in tuition and other fees will be put into effect at the end of this school year.

With the approval, next year's tuition increase of 3.98 percent means raising the cost of tuition to \$27,881,

while room and board will be set at \$9,090 for the average Elon student. Although the increase is the lowest of its kind in more than a decade, students are concerned about how their families will manage to continue paying the bills.

Creech said although her family is trying to figure out how to afford the higher tuition, it is not the ideal situation. She said Elon is worth the money, a priority in the institution's objectives to remain a best-value university, but also said she believes the continued rise in cost of non-tuition aspects like meal plans and workout classes are unnecessary.

Creech said she believes these financial implementations will lead to a lower level of socioeconomic diversity.

"Yes, there are scholarships but if people get partial scholarships, it will still be expensive for parents to make up the difference," Creech said. "I believe Elon strongly values diversity, but by increasing the tuition, it will weed out people that were once accepted solely because they will not

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Working on campus mutually beneficial for students, university

Marlena Chertock
 Design Editor

Sophomore Joy Debolt works three jobs, takes 18 credits per semester and still finds free time for herself and friends.

Debolt is one of the hundreds of Elon University students who hold positions on campus through the Federal Work Study program, which is awarded to students who need to work on campus and are paid according to the hours they work.

The awards vary based on amount of need, though students are never guaranteed a job, according to the student employment page on Elon's website.

Institutional Work Study, also called Elon Work Study, is a program similar to Federal Work Study but need is not a factor in determining eligibility, according to the website.

"When a student is (in the) Federal Work Study Program, three quarters of their pay comes from the federal government and one quarter from Elon," said Patrick Murphy, director of financial planning. "When a student is Institutional Work Study, all the pay is from Elon."

Debolt first started working on campus because her mother told her she had to use her own spending money in college.

When students juggle jobs, class, clubs and other activities, organization is necessary, according to Debolt. Having a calendar or planner is key, she said.

"If I notice that I have enough time to watch five TV shows in one night, I get a job," Debolt said. "That's kind of my philosophy. Not that I don't like free time."

Students often complain they don't have time to work in the day but there are jobs on campus for morning, day and night shifts, Debolt said.

There are many students who work in the library at night, such as senior Justin Berger, who has worked at Belk Library since he was a sophomore.

Students who have worked the most semesters at Belk are able to choose the shifts they want first. It is similar to registration, Berger said.

"It's unfortunate for (some students) because we haven't hired anybody since I believe fall 2009 due

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Fellows Weekend: A make-or-break event

Anna Johnson
 Editor-in-Chief

Applying to the Fellows Program can be called a waiting game.

After filling out the application, receiving an invitation to Fellows Weekend filled with interviews and essays, the waiting continues.

For some students, the chance to join one of Elon's seven Fellows Programs is worth the wait.

Several hundred students hoping to be accepted will arrive on Elon's campus in the first weekend of March for Fellows Weekend and each candidate will attend a class, write an essay and be interviewed by a faculty member. But it's the reflective student capable of critical thinking that will be chosen

said Nancy Harris, associate dean of Elon College and director of Elon College Fellows.

"We are looking for people who are thoughtful, who are reflective and have depth," Harris said. "Who can think through with some depth and write a good response to an experience they just had."

During the interview, students have to prove they are motivated, engaged and willing to take advantage of the opportunities given them during the Fellows process, she said.

The seven programs — Communications, Business, International, Isabella Cannon Leadership, College, Honors and Teaching — come with scholarships, grants for research or travel and the

chance to live with other Fellows.

This can mean completing a research proposal or planning a way to leave a legacy on campus. For the Leadership Fellows, the students must complete the four phases of leadership through the Isabella Cannon Center.

"Once we have them here that is when we ask them to set the world on fire," said Steven Mencarini, director of the center of leadership and director of the Leadership Fellows. "To take ownership of their Elon leadership experience. To say, 'Hey I have been selected. I have a responsibility to make a difference on Elon's campus.'"

In the College Fellows program, students spend their first two years studying the various types of arts and sciences including arts, humanities,

social sciences, math and natural sciences. In their last two years they narrow in on their particular major.

"The program has breadth and depth," Harris said. "They learn about all of the arts and sciences, what kind of questions they ask, what kind of assumptions they have and what kind of inquires they have. They come to appreciate all of the arts and sciences."

The decision to enter a Fellows Program should not be taken lightly and is a large time commitment, Harris and Mencarini said.

"It takes commitment," he said. "Students who are a part Isabella Cannon Program recognize it is a four

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