

Students living in coed Crest apartment forced to comply with single-sex housing policy

Natalie Allison Senior Reporter

Junior Sara Edwards met her future roommate at a transfer orientation in 2009. The two became best friends with one recently acquired by The Preiss Company, will be contracted to Elon as on-campus housing option, according to Brian Collins, associate director of Residence Life.

Jeffords and Edwards, both rising seniors, said they were never personally



another, and soon after decided to move into an apartment with a few of Edward's former suitemates.

For three semesters, the roommates celebrated birthday dinners with one another. They've had movie nights and gone grocery shopping together. They've argued about loading the dishwasher and sympathized with one another about grades.

Edwards' best friend, someone with whom she currently shares an apartment, is Hollace Jeffords. The friends, who live at The Crest apartments along with one other roommate, are among the students at Elon University who currently reside in off-campus coed housing arrangements.

After this semester, however, The Crest apartments will be considered on-campus housing and university policy, which prohibits coed suites and apartments, will go into effect. The entire complex, FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON ELON NEWS, VISIT WWW.ELON.EDU/PENDULUM

notified that The Crest was going on-campus housing. Though Jeffords' parents received a letter informing them of the contract change, Jeffords said he contacted Residence Life himself to ask how they were going to handle the particular situation.

"Since we've been living this way so long. I thought they'd make an exception but they wont," said Jeffords, who has had to find another roommate in a different apartment complex. "I'd love not to have to move, but it's not possible to go back now."

Despite Elon's firm enforcement of its single-sex room policy, the university's administration recently initiated a student-directed housing program that would allow students to occupy eightperson Danieley Center flats, centered on a specific topic of interest. The university's senior staff approved that these flats could

MOLLY CAREY | Staff Photograph A change in Elon policy, which does not allow for coed housing, will require students currently living in The Creat apartments to make other housing arrangements, despite a proposal for coed suites in Danieley Center.

be coed

The focus of these flats is not coed housing, but rather grouping students together around a theme for which they are passionate, said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life

"It may also be more feasible for students to form a living group around a specific topic if the flat is open to both males and females," he said.

Because the program is in its pilot stage,

Jackson said it is not out of the ordinary for the university to start a program or alter a policy on a narrow basis so it can first be evaluated.

"Often small pilots such as the studentdirected theme flats in the Danieley Center allow for feedback from a small sample of students," he said. "These pilots help

## See CREST | PAGE 2