

EARTHQUAKE JOLTS JAPAN

Thousands dead after earthquake and tsunami. See how three Elon students are faring while there.

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Elon's newest a cappella group created by two Elon freshmen

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THE PENDULUM

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TENURE TROUBLES

REVIEW PROCESS raises questions from faculty, students and alumni

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Students have raised concern that Lisa Peloquin, assistant professor of sociology (far right) is being used as an example of engaged learning on Elon's website, despite being denied tenure from the university.

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Rebecca Smith
Managing Editor

Elon University faculty and students have recently publicly spoken out against the school's decision to deny tenure to professors, including Lisa Peloquin, assistant professor of sociology, and Rebecca Olmedo, assistant professor of Spanish.

Each time a new faculty member is hired, he or she is presented with a faculty handbook that outlines the guidelines to obtain tenure. Despite this, the process of deciding who receives tenure is not a simple process.

When faculty members are hired, they receive the title of assistant professor for six years and then apply for tenure. At this point, assistant professors are expected to turn in a portfolio, emphasizing teaching,

service and scholarship, to be judged by the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the dean of the school they are employed by and Provost Steven House. Some professors believe the teaching aspect does not receive substantial consideration in the tenure application process.

An e-mail was sent out to faculty and staff about the decision to deny tenure for Peloquin. Five tenured professors in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology endorsed the e-mail.

"It was never the intention of the Task Force on Scholarship to destabilize the delicate balance between teaching, scholarship and service at the university," the e-mail read. "Nor was it imagined that excellent teaching should be trumped by publication activity."

There have also been several complaints from the students about

the recent decision to deny Peloquin tenure.

The university has a policy of not releasing the reasons why professors are denied tenure.

"I have been writing e-mails to the president and provost about the effect Lisa has on her students, the change she brought out in me, her passions for her subjects and her students, and her endeavors outside of school and even the office," said Justin Franklin, Class of 2007.

Several students have mentioned Peloquin's teaching skills as the reason she should have received tenure.

"Peloquin is the absolute model of the Elon teacher-scholar and it will be a sore loss for the university not to employ her exceptional writing and teaching skills," said Laura Rose Heymann, Class of 2008. "I cannot possibly understand how

the individuals who made this poor decision regarding Dr. Peloquin, can continue to uphold their judgment."

Another e-mail, sent to faculty and staff, was sent out last week from five professors, four from the department of foreign languages and one from the department of math, regarding a similar decision to deny tenure to Olmedo.

"There is no intent to question the extended and thoughtful deliberations completed by the Promotion and Tenure Committee," the e-mail read. "We also believe that such incidents may point to a problem in how Elon University understands and evaluates the teacher-scholar model."

The Promotion and Tenure Committee is made up of eight faculty members who meet almost once a week

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Proposed changes in general studies will expand required student experiences at Elon

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Elon University's general studies curriculum is currently being revised for the first time since 1994.

The changes are in order to provide better integration among classes, according to Janet Warman, director of general studies. All faculty members must discuss proposals for revision before they are finalized in May.

"Our student body has changed a lot since 1994," Warman said. "Students are much more academically prepared. We've sort of outgrown our former curriculum and we need to move ahead. We really need to stay cutting-edge."

Changes proposed to the General studies program include redefining the distribution of core classes as well as requiring students to complete coursework beyond a single major. The qualifying second academic experience

must be a second major, a full semester abroad, a minor in the College of Arts and Sciences or a pathway.

Pathways, a new concept, are a set of four integrated classes taken from multiple disciplines within and outside of the College of Arts and Sciences. Pathways are 16 credits, fewer hours than a minor, and seek to provide students with well-rounded and in-depth knowledge about specific topics.

"Every product has a shelf life, and our current curriculum's shelf life is simply up," said Rosemary Haskell, professor of English and general studies review committee co-chair.

Currently, students are required to complete classes in Expression, Civilization, Society and Science and Analysis. Under the proposed changes, classes in the Schools

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Study abroad tendencies present problems for upperclassmen living off campus, subletters

Gabriela Szewcow
Design Chief

Sophomore Shannon Smith and her two future roommates have been looking for subletters for next spring semester, and they've yet to find any.

"We've had no luck thus far finding people to sublet for us, but we had to go ahead and sign the one-year lease because we were going to lose the house," Smith said.

The three students are all studying abroad in the spring, and need three people to fill their spots while they are gone. They aren't alone. There are around 166 Elon students studying abroad in the spring, and a large majority is in the same boat as Smith and her roommates. As a result, Elon is considering creating a living space on campus specifically designated for students studying abroad.

Fall semester seems to be a more popular time for students to study abroad compared to spring semester,

according to Woody Pelton, dean of international programs and director of the Isabella Cannon International Centre. Last year in particular, there was a big difference between the number of students who studied abroad in the fall versus the spring, 230 compared to 159, respectively.

Pelton said he doesn't know the exact reason for this disparity, but the ICIC has seen less of a difference this year.

"In some ways, we think last year may have been somewhat of an aberration," he said. "But we don't know what to attribute it to."

This aberration is one that causes many students stress, according to Smith.

"You're constantly trying to balance school and extracurriculars and friends, and jobs, and as if that's not enough, there's always a constant cloud

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