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Parents' Night Out builds bridge between students, faculty >> PAGE 5

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THE PENDULUM

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CAUGHT IN THE ACT

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Eva Hill
Copy Chief

When Elon University junior Lindsay Kimble received an email from the university saying she was being sent to Judicial Affairs, now known as Student Conduct, for illegal piracy, she was worried about what steps the administration would take next. She was downloading several songs at a time to put in her iTunes music library using Limewire, a free peer-to-peer file sharing program that was shut down in 2010 after a federal judge found it guilty of assisting users in committing copyright infringement "on a massive scale."

She chose to accept the file sharing charges rather than challenge them. But just when she thought the ordeal was over, she received a letter in her campus mailbox that indicated she had violated Elon's Honor Code, and any future illegal downloads would result in a \$1,000 fine for each downloaded song.

"I knew policies on piracy existed, I was just unaware that Elon could see what I was downloading on my personal computer," said Kimble, a former Pendulum staff member. "Now I realize that by using the Elon wireless network I am letting Elon administrators see all the content I use or download from the Internet."

Between 2004 and 2009, approximately 30 billion songs were illegally downloaded on file-sharing networks, and the National Purchase Diary Group (NPD) reports that only 37 percent of music acquired by U.S. consumers in 2009 was paid for, according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). In February 2011, Frontier Economics estimated Internet users in the United States consumed between \$7 billion and \$20 billion worth of digitally pirated recorded music in 2008, and a commercial value of \$1.4 billion and \$2 billion worth of movies in 2005.

The RIAA, which was formed in 1952, is a trade organization that represents recording industry distributors. The organization protects the intellectual property and First Amendment rights of music industry professionals.

Because of the Higher Education Opportunity Act regulations enacted in 2010, all colleges are required to address illegal file sharing through on-campus

Are you a pirate?
Colleges are watching your online activity, and they know the answer.



CATE LESOURD | Graphics Editor

networks. Universities must take certain precautions to make sure students are aware of the policies against illegal music and content downloading on campus.

Elon University and illegal file sharing: the administrative process

Chris Fulkerson, assistant vice president for technology, is the university's contact for questions and issues regarding illegal file sharing. The policies on illegal content and music downloading are on Elon's website and in the student handbook, he said.

Fulkerson receives notifications of illegal activity from the RIAA and works with Student Conduct to distribute letters to students.

The notifications are automated and Fulkerson said there are typically anywhere from three to 10 in an average week. In previous years, numbers have been as high as 60 to 70.

The RIAA looks at the IP address of the person who has illegally acquired the music and concentrates on downloading rather than uploading, according to Fulkerson. The organization then downloads a copy of the illegal content to get the IP address, which is registered and

How do the universities stack up in informing students about file-sharing policies?

policies available on website			
policies available in handbook			
sends reminder email about policies			
offers list or link to legal alternatives			
punishments numbered, descriptions provided			

Sources: UNCG, Elon, and Wake Forest handbooks and websites

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electronically connected to the university.

Fulkerson said after he receives a notification from the RIAA, he goes back and looks up which computer was hooked up to the specific network and address at that time.

"If we didn't take any action the RIAA could come back on us," he said. "There

are regulations that say universities must do certain things to curb the illegal downloading of music."

Elon doesn't give the name of the person who downloaded the content to the recording industry unless the

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Cuts to Pell Grants will impact students, diversity

Grace Elkus
Senior Reporter

A proposed budget cut recently released by U.S. House Republicans will restrict eligibility for Pell Grants, a form of financial aid that provides need-based grants to undergraduate students.

Under the plan, the required maximum family income to qualify will be cut in half to \$15,000.

Although the draft legislation proposes that the maximum Pell Grant award of \$5,550 be maintained, Elon students who are currently receiving the grant or prospective students who would rely on the grant will feel the affects of the restricted eligibility.

Eleven percent of Elon's student body receives the Pell Grant in some amount, according to Patrick Murphy, the director of financial planning at Elon. To be eligible for the grant, students must first file the

FAFSA. The expected family contribution number that the government calculates determines whether the student receives the grant.

"Sometimes people are under the misconception that the school determines who gets it, and how much, but it is really from a chart from the government," Murphy said. "We're just getting the number they're feeding us and looking at the menu to determine how much the grant is."

It is hard to know exactly how students will be affected by the cut, because there are a lot of unknowns when it comes to who will still be eligible, Murphy said.

"What they are going to do is probably change the income ranges that are looked at," he said. "There's a lot of calculations behind the scenes that go into determining an expected family contribution, so it's not easy for us to say if your income goes from this to this

you're going to lose your eligibility. With the environment in DC being so partisan, it's hard to figure out what they're going to do."

Even students who are automatically eligible for the Pell Grant could lose their aid. Currently, students whose family income is \$31,000 or less qualify for an automatic zero, which means they receive some form of the grant regardless of other circumstances.

More students will be affected by the eligibility restrictions this year than in years past, Murphy said. Over the past three or four years, the number of students at Elon who receive the Pell grant has increased from 6 to 11 percent. The increase has to do with a number of factors, one being that Elon has a more diverse student body than it used to.

"If they do cut the eligibility, it will hurt some of the diverse population," Murphy said.

Tom Tiemann, professor of economics, said increasing the diversity of the student body will become more challenging if the bill is passed. Whether Elon will reach into its own budget to make up for the loss in government funding will be a determining factor, he said.

"Here's a source of need based aid that doesn't have to come out of Elon's pocket," Tiemann said. "So either Elon is going to have to replace it, or we are going to have to change our target."

Although the cut may cause Elon to re-evaluate some of its proposed construction projects, a tuition raise is unlikely, Tiemann said.

"If they are going to try to replace the Pell Grants, they are going to have to find the money somewhere," he said. "They are even going to have to cut some programs or raise tuition. But we don't do that a whole lot here. It would be a real change in strategy."

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