

New QEP initiative promotes writing across curriculums

Adriana Miano
Senior Reporter

Elon University will soon institute the Writing Excellence Initiative to help students achieve a higher standard of written communication in their coursework and beyond.

The initiative to enhance the writing curriculum throughout departments was developed under the Quality Enhancement Plan, a component of the reaccreditation process that aims to improve an aspect of the institution. The initiative is designed to help students gain expertise in writing, inquiry and community engagement.

"We hope that students will use writing to somehow make an impact on the world," said Paula Patch, English lecturer and college writing program coordinator. "That means writing a letter to the editor or writing a grant proposal to help solve a problem in their community. It could be that a student goes on to work in public policy, and because

they are able to write well, their statements will have a widespread impact."

To achieve the goals set forth by the Writing Excellence Initiative, the plan calls for professors to find more ways to incorporate writing into their curriculum, such as substituting a multiple choice test for an essay exam, Patch said.

Professors of all disciplines will receive support and instruction to help them master their own written communication skills, Patch said.

The Writing Center will play an important role in the initiative as well, and its staff will receive training to offer expanded services to students and faculty. These services will include support for multimedia writing and writing students do outside of class, according to Paul Anderson, director of writing across the university.

"Lots of students will be doing writing on their own, whether that's creative writing or writing related to issues in their own communities," Anderson said. "We want to celebrate that and support it."

The Writing Excellence Initiative may alter the way courses are taught at Elon, but there will be no new course or graduation requirements resulting from it, according to Anderson.

"The approach in regard to academics is to have stu-

dents working in their majors with writing throughout their four years in ways that intentionally and deliberately build their skills as they move from the intro course to the capstone, or culminating course," Anderson said.

But the plan is still subject to alteration, and Anderson is eager to receive feedback from students and staff, he said. By visiting the Writ-

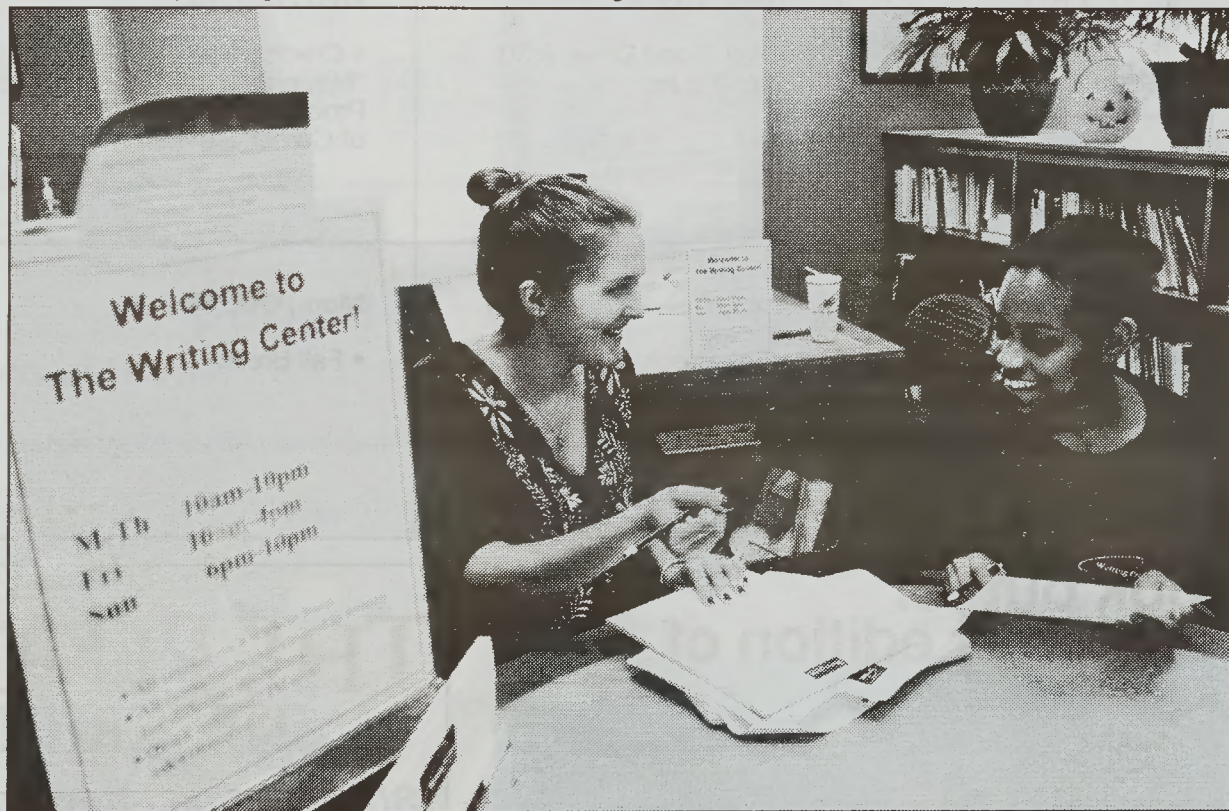
ing Initiative's website, students can post their ideas about the plan or find out who they can contact with their suggestions.

"I want Elon alumni to say one of the most valuable things they got from the university was writing," Anderson said. "When employers and grad schools talk about Elon, I want them to say one of the more remarkable things about our stu-

dents is how well they write."

"I think it's easy for people across the university to see that writing is an important tool," Patch said. "In the classroom, it's a tool for learning and it's also a tool for assessment."

Having strong writing skills will also be important for students in their endeavors after graduation, Patch said.



Senior Molly O'Brien (left) and sophomore Autumn Spriggs regularly make use of the Writing Center, which is an instrumental part of the new Writing Excellence Initiative to integrate advanced writing skills into course work. GLORIA SO | Staff Photographer



301 W. Haggard Avenue
Elon, North Carolina 27244
336-585-0167



For more information,
please see our Special Events at
www.acorninnelon.com

Isabella Cannon Centre intensifies focus on domestic study

Kristen Olsen
Senior Reporter

The Isabella Cannon Centre changed its name to better reflect its functionality. With the addition of the new Study USA program, the office formerly known as the Isabella Cannon International Centre has been officially renamed the Isabella Cannon Global Education Center.

Study USA is the new home for all Elon University domestic study programs, which includes Elon in New York, Elon in Los Angeles and domestic Winter Term programs. Its office re-

sides in the Isabella Cannon Centre, which led to the change in name.

"Changing the name to be the Global Education Center incorporates both the USA and international study programs," said Woody Pelton, dean of global studies.

According to Pelton, the name change reflects the center's broadened scope of activity and incorporation of more domestic study programs. It will continue to build international study abroad programs, as well.

"You don't have to travel outside of the country to gain multicultural experience," said

Phil Smith, interim director of domestic programs. Smith said he is working to create more domestic study programs.

The Elon in New York and LA programs, which used to operate solely through the School of Communications, will now operate through the Global Education Center. The center will take the burden off communications professors by completing administrative tasks associated with the program, according to Pelton.

"Those running the New York and LA programs can now focus more on the classes and students," Smith said.

The Global Education Center is also developing a semester-long program in Los Angeles, which will be available to students in spring 2013.

"There are some disciplines that professors teach that would strengthen with travel," Smith said.

Some Elon students, especially those who have participated in domestic study in the past, look forward to more programs being included.

"Now that I've done Elon in New York, I want to try out LA," said senior Lauren Harbury. "I 100 percent recommend domestic study programs."