Parents & Families,

The fall semester is quickly coming to a close as students prepare for final exams and look forward to winter break. We hope your students’ first semester at Elon has been a quality experience as they continue to grow in our community. Over the past few months you have undoubtedly received a variety of phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding the many endeavors your student has experienced. First-year students at Elon are accomplishing great things and we look forward to the contributions they will make over the next three-and-a-half years!! Best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season with your students!

Regards,

Emily C. Ivey
Director of New Student Orientation

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Home for the Holidays...

Most students are eager to return home for an extended break from college. They look forward to enjoying the comforts and privacy of their old rooms, their favorite home-cooked meals, and having time for much-needed rest and reunions with old friends. Some students, however, are reluctant to leave their new friends as well as the excitement and freedom of college life. There may be some tension between parents and students as they sort through their different expectations for the visit. Students may balk at family obligations and curfews, and parents may be disappointed by how little time they actually see their college son or daughter. It is helpful for everyone to communicate expectations (before the visit) and to be willing to compromise with one another. A sense of humor helps too, as parents welcome their young adult home again. Some insight on returning home from upperclassmen:

“Going home after beginning college really made me appreciate all my parents have done and continue to do for me. My parents recognized I was becoming more mature, and I realized that my parents were fun people to hang out with, in addition to all of the other obvious benefits. My parents and I became a lot closer as a result of me going so far away to school and we look forward to getting together on breaks and having a good time.”
- Clay Winkelvoss, Junior, Cranberry Township, PA

“When I went home after my first semester I learned my parents had slowly begun to look at me as an adult. They raised me well and set defined guidelines at home and now understood I was capable of making my own decisions which they trusted and supported as long as I was being safe and responsible. I think my relationship has improved with both my parents since college - I am open with them about my opportunities, choices, successes, and mistakes. In return, they support, encourage, and challenge me appropriately.”
- Hallie Kilmer, Senior, Davenport, IA

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Need to Update Your Contact Information? Want to Join Our Mailing List?

If you need to update your contact information as a parent or family member of an Elon student or would like to be included in future emails please contact parentprograms@elon.edu
Elon retains #1 ranking for study abroad
Elon remains the nation’s top-ranked master’s-level university for study abroad programs in the 2008 Open Doors report by the Institute of International Education. The annual Open Doors report ranks colleges and universities by the number and percentage of students who participate in international study. About 71 percent of last year’s graduating seniors had studied abroad at least once during their time at the university. Elon sent 1,063 students abroad in 2006-2007. For more information on the report, visit: http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/

Elon Athletics
Many Phoenix athletic teams are in full swing including the Men’s & Women’s Basketball. Spring sports are gearing up for their seasons to start in a few short months. Phoenix Football finished their season 8-4 (6-2 SoCon) and fell just shy of the playoffs this year. Men’s Soccer finished the SoCon Regular Season with a 7-0 record making it to the SoCon tournament semifinals before making an exit. Elon sports teams have received a number of national and conference accolades this season. Check out the details at www.elonphoenix.com.

Recent News @ Elon:

Holiday Lighting Ceremony ushers in the season
Elon celebrated a traditional holiday event on Dec. 4 by filling the campus with 2,000 glowing luminarias. The Holiday Lighting Ceremony featured hot chocolate and cider, with Christmas carols and the lighting of a Menorah leading up to the moment when thousands of lights illuminated the heart of campus. See more pictures at www.elon.edu/e-net.

Winter Term Defined...
A common question of Elon Students and Parents comes around this time of year: “What exactly is Winter Term and what is it like?” We asked a student to give you their perspective of Winter Term at Elon:

Winter term is a unique aspect of Elon University that will allow students an opportunity for new educational experiences. During this 3-week term, students have the option of taking a class at Elon or studying abroad for course credit. If students decide to remain on campus they attend one class for three hours every day of the term. Some of the classes available are only offered during winter term, providing a good chance for students to learn about new things and take different kinds of classes. Students frequently have more free time because they are only taking one class and many organizations suspend responsibilities during the term. Additionally a large number of students choose to go abroad over winter term, gaining class credit and new perspective while also fulfilling the Experiential Learning Requirement.

Campus is always a little quieter during winter term, but there is always something to do and frequently students will find a short-term job. Whether students are on campus or traveling the world during winter term, it is a great opportunity for gaining a different perspective and having some time to re-energize for the upcoming semester.

- Becca Bender, Junior, Pollocksville, NC

Elon Athletics

Elon Athletics

Coming Soon: Housing Selection!

Your student should start preparing for housing selection which begins February 2009. Students are required to live on campus their first two years, but if your student would like to live off campus he or she can apply for release through the Housing Appeal Committee. It’s important to note that appeals are not guaranteed and therefore students should not sign an off-campus lease until the appeal has been granted.

Prior to selection, make sure you have paid the $200 reservation fee to the Bursar’s office so your student can participate. Reservation fees can be paid beginning January 1st. Students should begin prioritizing where they would most like to live on campus, but have alternate choices in case their first choice is not available. There are several phases of housing selection and your student will need to choose which phase best suits his/her needs. If your student would like to remain in their current assignment, online applications are available February 26th. For students applying for a different assignment, online applications are available March 16th. Housing applications are similar to class registration forms on Elon’s OnTrack Website.

Beginning in January, Residence life will offer residence hall, apartment, and general housing information sessions aimed at educating students about the process; encourage your student to attend if they have any questions. Housing selection can be a stressful time for some students; the best thing they can do is be prepared by reading the materials, being aware of deadlines, and talking regularly with their group members. Make sure your student knows to ask questions if they have them, attend housing information sessions and visit the Residence Life Website for more information at www.elon.edu/residencelife.

Emerging Futures: Foresight for Global Good

Each year Elon chooses a theme to frame various courses during Winter Term. Winter Term 2009 Emerging Futures: Foresight for Global Good offers a special group of courses connected in theme and united by a common commitment to excellence in content and teaching. More than 30 courses offered are specifically designed to explore cutting-edge material in new and imaginative ways to prepare us to lead and serve well in response to the accelerating change taking place in our complex global community.
Technology has changed both the speed and manner in which people communicate with one another, and information technology is a significant and important part of our college campus, both in and out of the classroom. Moreover, today’s college students, and many of their parents, are technologically savvy and expect their institutions to provide the latest in convenient, high-speed Internet access. Elon University uses information technology to communicate important business and academic matters with students. For example, professors often communicate with their students through email and post lecture notes, reading assignments, and other class information on the Web. Information regarding application deadlines, tuition and fees, financial aid, grade reports, housing contracts and bills, campus emergency announcements and directives, and even parking tickets may be communicated online to students. Parents may be surprised that this information is sent to students rather than themselves, but Elon gives the responsibility of informing parents about these matters to students even if parents are paying the bills.

Social networking sites

Social networks designed to appeal to college-age students, such as Facebook or MySpace, are very popular. These sites provide a way for students to share information, through words and photographs, with old, new, and possible future friends – all the while tracking the news and photographs of everyone in their social network. Facebook has become a verb, as in “He’s cute; let’s Facebook him.”

While students self-report that they spend too much time on Facebook and even call the site addictive, social networking sites can support students’ academic success. Students can use these networks to find others in their classes, see if they are currently online, and send a question about an upcoming test or paper or a concept from the lecture that is unclear. They can also form subject- or class-specific groups on Facebook to facilitate discussions, team projects, and study groups.

Naturally, parents are concerned about the safety of their students participating in social websites. According to Philabaum (2006), the two major risks students need to be aware of when using a social network are identity theft and exposing too much personal information. He offers guidelines for students to follow in online communities, and we include them in this publication so parents can use these suggestions in conversations about Facebook, MySpace, or other social networking sites with their sons and daughters.

Guidelines for students to follow when participating in online social communities:

- Limit contact information to the basics. Don’t disclose room location, cell phone numbers, etc.
- Restrict additional information to people you know by using the website’s various security options.
- Don’t include information that could help an identity thief (e.g., birth date, social security number, banking information).
- Don’t accept connections from people you don’t know.
- Be careful what you say and how you say it online. What you say or post may still be there 20 years from now.
- Think before you join a group – can the group’s postings be seen as denigrating a person, place, or racial/ethnic group?
- Think before you post information or a photo – will this content give an employee, friend or community member the wrong impression of who you are?
- Be aware that more and more employers are monitoring students’ postings on social websites.
- Set a reasonable limit on how long you use the website each day.
- Report anyone you feel is harassing you to college officials.

Easy access, poor choices

The Internet can deliver a variety of services, information, entertainment, and vices directly to a residence hall room. Caution your student about using the Internet for gambling, online sexual activity, pornography, and illegal downloads or file sharing. While some of these topics might be difficult for parents to initiate with their son or daughter, the consequences of poor choices can threaten personal safety, academic studies, and emotional health. Students should understand University policies on appropriate computer use and the consequences for violating those guidelines. Elon University also offers tips on safe computing through its Instructional and Campus Technologies website; for additional information, students can also visit Belk Library’s Student Technology Center to receive individualized help with the safety and maintenance of their personal computer. 

Encourage your student to check out the Career Center at Elon for more information regarding Social Networking. Additionally the Career Center has a variety of resources available to students including online networks specifically catered to help students find employment and make connections with their field of interest.


www.elon.edu/careers