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Elon exceeds ADA obligations



Sophomore Shane Dittmar and his guide dog, Chevelle, spend much of their time together in the Performing Arts Center, but outside passersby pose problems.

CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Michael Bodley
News Editor

Nearly one in 10 of the Elon University students roaming the school's brick pathways have some sort of disability, a number that is in keeping with the national average of college students living with disabilities: 10-12 percent.

Under the Americans Living with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, both public and private universities must make certain accommodations in order to not

discriminate against someone living with a physical or mental disability. Though the university is in a state of slow growth under the Elon Commitment, sections of campus like the Historic Neighborhood were built long before the ADA took effect almost a quarter century ago.

According to Brad Moore, director of planning, design and construction management, the university must continue to look back while it plans for the future by renovating previously-existing spaces to accommodate the needs of students liv-

ing with disabilities on campus. ADA regulations demand 20 percent of the cost of a renovation be devoted to improving handicap accessibility, which starts in the parking lot.

"Whether we're renovating an existing space or building something new, accessibility options start off in the parking lot, with a portion of spaces reserved for handicapped individuals," Moore said. "From there, we're looking at everything

Life after college: New graduates struggle with unemployment

Megan Larcher and Jessica Leano
Reporter and Senior Reporter

College graduates, with freshly printed diplomas in hand, often encounter mixed messages regarding their future employment. Headlines blare with disheartening messages, including "Unemployment Rate Up For Men and College Grads," "Twice as Many College Grads in Minimum Wage Jobs as 5 Years Ago," and, more bluntly, "Is College Worth It?"

According to the Huffington Post, the unemployment rate of college graduates with at least a bachelor's degree is half that of people with only a high school diploma. The national unemployment rate is currently at 6.7, though it has steadily decreased since peaking in 2010. The threat of unemployment after graduation has a range of effects on Elon University graduates as well as current students.

In the midst of papers, projects and exams, future employment may not be at the forefront of most students' thoughts. However, some students already feel the pressure to take on multiple jobs to stave off future unemployment.

"College isn't really an option for me without having jobs," senior Kendall Gardiner said, "I pay for my own food, gas, insurance and clothes, so it is critical that I have steady income coming in."

Gardiner switched her major during her sophomore year to Strategic Communications to increase her marketability. She based her decision to work in public relations partially to ensure future job security.

Instead of basing their majors on passion or chasing dreams, college students like Gardiner change their majors to prevent future unemployment. A May 2013

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