

# Professor has great expectations

by Mindy Schneeberger  
Staff Writer

Clair F. Myers, the new Associate Dean and Chair of the Fine Arts Department, has only been at Elon for a month. Yet in that short time he has been able to formulate impressions of the college and establish strong goals for its future.

Myers, who is responsible for guiding the development of Elon's arts, journalism, and mass communications departments, feels that his main obligation to the school is

to "provide leadership" and make appropriate steps forward.

Another concern of Myers is the continued improvement of courses and facilities offered to students interested in the arts. The new dean stresses the importance of quality education, faculty, and equipment for the rapidly-growing Journalism/Mass Communications departments. He also feels that the school must accommodate for the technological improvements being made in the field of music.

By establishing a set of priorities for future programs, Myers feels that the school can better cater to the needs of students majoring in music. The dean hopes to begin outlining changes in the areas of art, dance, and drama by determining ways to encourage more interest in these fields. Given time, these studies could actually blossom into full-fledged majors.

The dean considers the school's new Fine Arts Center a "wonderful building which provides a kind of center that has never been here before." By making use of the new facility, the arts departments can make marked changes in their approach to teaching.

The dean cites as an example the recent movement of the entire

mass communications department to the Fine Arts Center.

Myers hopes to see the communications and arts departments begin complementing one another by allowing drama students on-camera experience and encouraging future broadcasters to experiment in performance classes.

Myers, who earned his PhD in theater and oral interpretation at the University of Michigan and holds a masters degree in speech, is no stranger to the performing arts. Before coming to Elon on August 1, he served as director of the school of drama at Illinois Wesleyan, where he supervised a professional training program for people in theater. Prior to this, Myers spent 16 years teaching in Kalamazoo.

While Myers hasn't yet had the opportunity to meet many students, he finds Elon a "very positive and well organized place."



Clair Myers

## Centennial Moments September, 1890

### Social Highlights: "Cold Water Walk Arounds"

In addition to the social life provided by the occasional society parties and the annual commencement, "get togethers" were held each month in the college chapel. S.M. Smith recorded the manner in which they were conducted.

These occasions were usually on Friday evening, as there were no college classes on Saturday. At the appointed hour, usually about eight o'clock, the old bell in the tower sounded a note of invitation, and the young ladies came over from the dormitory under the chaperonage of the matron or one of the music teachers. Young men came from homes in the village, and after a few preliminaries, the "walk-around" was on, Dr. Long and members of the facul-

ty with their wives leading...

There was no "receiving line," no punch bowl, no evening dress (decollete or tails), such wasn't in keeping with the spirit of the day. There was no program, or even music...except probably a slow march played by one of the music teachers at the beginning just to get things going.

These affairs came to be known later in colleges as "proms," meaning, of course, that the participants promenaded around the room, arm in arm. At Elon, however, they soon took on the name of "Cold Water Walk Arounds..."

Excerpted from *Elon College: It's History and Traditions* by Durward T. Stokes.

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