

New library breaks way into Elon's future

Exactly 109 years after its founding on March 11, 1889, Elon College continued its preparations for the future by breaking ground for a new \$14 million library.

Construction on the 75,000-square-foot building, the fourth library in Elon's history, is expected to be scheduled to begin Monday.

"We are privileged in our generation to be part of an astounding renaissance in the life of our college," Chaplain Richard McBride said at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Elon College President Fred Young said, "The new library reflects our values and traditions and it is appropriate that we celebrate its groundbreaking on the anniversary of our founding."

The new library will feature state-of-the-art technology and meeting spaces for group work and professor and student interaction. The LaRose Resource Center, Writing Center, tutoring and other academic programs will be located in the new library as well.

Library Director Kate Hickey said, "Starting on Monday all around us will rise walls, bricks, mortar,

ceilings and soon, stairways. This building itself, though, is really about the breaking down of walls, the breaking down of barriers—the walls between people, the walls between services, the walls between technology."

"Our Trustees and our society at Elon are committed to providing an excellence in education. It is a continuous challenge that we all face. This library, in my mind, is a major step in our ability to continue that excellence in education," Robert LaRose, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said.

The library is one of the final pieces of the Elon Vision, an \$80 million plan to make Elon one of "the premier undergraduate institutions on the Eastern Seaboard," to be completed.

"This library is a huge piece of the Elon College puzzle. As a graduating senior, this library represents another reason why the value of my diploma should go up," Student Government Association President Ashton Newhall said.

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Library director Kate Hickey, Catalog Librarian Ann Vickers, Trustee Chairman Bob LaRose, President Emeritus Earl Danieley and Trustee Vice-Chairwoman Gail Drew toss the first shovels of dirt to break ground for the new library.

Sophomore housing requirement passed

The Board of Trustees passed a policy that would require all sophomores to live on campus.

The requirement, which was passed at the spring meeting held March 10 and 11, will take affect with the incoming freshman class.

"The main purpose of adding sophomores to the residency requirement is to increase student success at Elon," said John Barnhill, assistant to the dean of students.

Assistant Director of Housing Operations Mark Harris said that studies have shown that students who live on campus have a higher graduation rate than those who don't.

Harris also said if students live on campus for two years they are more likely to stay on campus.

The Board also approved the building of a \$9 million housing complex to house the extra students. The new housing will be built near the East Campus apartments.

Construction on the new housing is expected to begin this summer. The complex will have 320 additional beds and will feature five buildings and a dining facility.



"This will be a very significant improvement in the expansion of the campus housing," Vice President for Student Life Smith Jackson said.

Jackson said that the new housing was not apartments, but rather a suite form of housing. Each of the five buildings will contain eight suites. Each suite will have four or five bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms and a kitchen.

Jackson said the suites provided flexibility and could house up to 10 students each.

The new housing will allow freshmen, sophomores and upperclassmen to mix more in campus housing.

"We don't see residence halls as just a place to sleep. Learning happens in all areas of our campus and community. In campus housing students learn about group dynamics, team building and themselves. It is also a place where freshmen and sophomores and upperclassmen learn from each others' experiences," Barnhill said.

This article originally appeared in the March 19 edition. The new housing, which was named the Danieley Center, is currently under construction.

Study abroad safe despite attack

One of the 41 Elon students currently studying in London was sexually assaulted on Wednesday, March 18.

Elon officials will not release the student's name.

The incident occurred less than two blocks from the Elon flats, which are located in an area of the city known as Little Venice.

According to a letter written by Vice President for Student Life Smith Jackson the student had just left the Warwick Avenue Underground ("tube") Station when she was pulled into a car by a single assailant and raped.

The student did not receive any additional injuries.

London police are currently investigating incident, however no arrests had been made by Tuesday, March 31.

Dean of International Studies and Special Programs Bill Rich said the London police told him that no similar event had occurred in this part of London in 10 years.

"It's unfortunate, but you really can't blame anyone. If she (the victim) had been there five minutes earlier or five minutes later this may not have happened," Rich said.

"It's not a matter of blame," he added. Rich was in Denmark planning another

study abroad trip when he heard the news.

He then made plans to fly to London the next day.

Elon also sent Pam Kaiser, a clinical counselor and the chairwoman of the human services department, to speak with students.

One of Rich's tasks while in London was to see if a change needed to be made to Elon's London program.

Rich said that everything seemed to be OK and the school isn't planning any immediate changes.

In fact, Rich said Elon is planning on renewing its rental agreement on the flats.

Rich said that safety in a city was stressed during orientation activities.

"Safety is our number one concern," he said. "We don't put students in situations that have a high potential for being unsafe."

Rich said that the students who are in London now, while concerned for their fellow student, don't feel unsafe.

Marisa Moss, who spent the fall semester in London said, "I've talked to a lot of students who went to London and we all agreed this was a freak occurrence."

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