

## University ushers in new era in Elon history with bell tower

Lauren Reinalda  
Reporter

In John Donne's poem "For whom the Bell Tolls" the chiming of bells represented death. However bells that will be heard chiming on Sept. 15 will mean new life for Elon.

The new 57-foot bell tower has become a topic of conversation in and around Elon. There are four bells in the new tower. The bells are made to sound four different notes; A, D, E and F sharp. The largest of the bells, the A, weighs almost 1,000 lbs. The smallest bell, the F sharp, weighs 226 lbs. These massive bells were finely tuned in five different spots along each bell to ensure quality of sound. On

the bells the following inscriptions can be found; "Elon University 2001," "Numen Lumen," "Christian Church," "The Phoenix," and "Founded 1889".

The bells will be operated by a remote control so that they may be chimed after each score and at other pertinent points during the game. The bells can play a tune, make a single note sound or toll. The variations of sound can all be controlled by the remote control.

"It is a Bell Tower of the University," Trip Durham, assistant director of athletics, said. "It is a beacon for a physical and mental feel." The area surrounding the tower is landscaped so that it's an attractive area for fans to gather. "It is a

good anchor to the North area of campus," Durham said.

The tower was in the original plans for the stadium, however it looked as though it would not be financially feasible once the stadium building got underway. At the last minute an anonymous donor stepped up and made this copper topped tower possible.

Elon has proven itself to be an institution that embraces tradition. Tradition is seen in every decision that Elon makes. Their choice of the VanBergen Company as bell founders was no exception: The VanBergen Company was started in 1795 and a 9<sup>th</sup> generation Van Bergen still helps to run the company. They have crafted the bells of many other colleges and universities such as Wake Forest, Davidson and Clemson.

Another inkling of tradition creeps into the story of the bell tower. During the infamous fire on Elon's campus in 1923 a bell from the old main building on campus fell. The bell landed in the ashes and did not even crack. Elon still has this bell somewhere in their possession. Perhaps a parallel could be drawn between the Phoenix and our new bells.



Photos courtesy of University Relations

The largest bell, inscribed with "Elon University, Founded 1889" weighs 998 pounds. The three other bells have the inscription "The Phoenix," "Christian Church" and "Numen Lumen." The bell tower was given by an anonymous donor last year.



Two weeks ago, the four bells arrived from France. Three workers in the tower used winches to guide the bells into position.



**Home Hunting?  
We can help!**

336-584-0347 - Office  
888-779-8809 - Toll-Free  
www.stevewhitfield.com



**Steve & Nancy Whitfield**

**Southwick Golf Course**  
336.227.2582

**Student Specials**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY:**  
**Ride 18 - \$20.00**  
**Walk 18 - \$12.00**

Valid with Student or Faculty I.D.  
www.SouthwickGolf.com



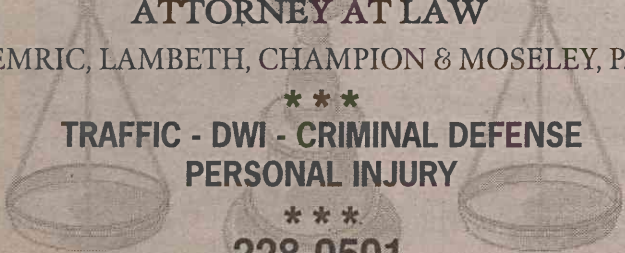
**N. MORGAN WHITNEY, JR.**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

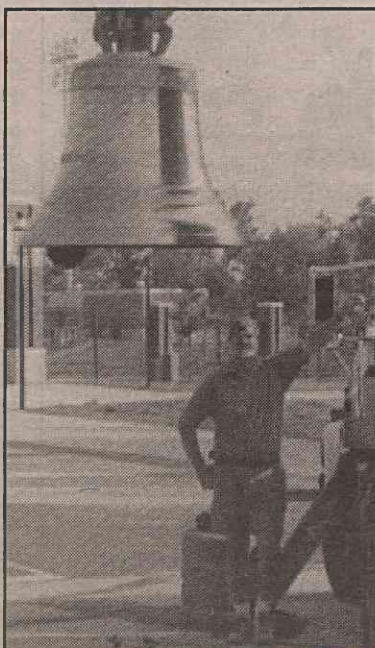
HEMRIC, LAMBETH, CHAMPION & MOSELEY, P.A.

\*\*\*  
**TRAFFIC - DWI - CRIMINAL DEFENSE**  
**PERSONAL INJURY**  
\*\*\*

**228-0501**

445 S. Spring Street, Burlington      morgan@hemriclaw.com  
EVENING APPOINTMENTS POSSIBLE      FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION





Mike Wilson '70 was part of the crew that installed the bells.