

## Dept. of performing arts goes to SETC

**Samaha Khanna**  
A&E Editor

Elon's department of performing arts sent 37 students to the 53rd Annual Southeastern Theatre Conference March 6-10 in Mobile, Ala., to audition for summer employment.

Elon University had the largest group of any school in North Carolina to attend the conference—just shy of half of North Carolina's allowance of 77 students, said Catherine McNeela, chair of Elon's department of performing arts.

More than 100 companies were there to recruit the most talented of the 780 students from around the country who attended the conference.

Students auditioned in groups of 25 and singled out by directors for individual auditions.

"It's nerve-racking because in the first 15 seconds, they're going to know if they want you or not," Elon freshman Heather Haley said.

"They have to be on their feet all the time if they want to get the job," McNeela said.

Most students brought along several songs and monologues to be prepared to display ability in multiple performing styles, said senior Amy Gewant, who attended the conference for the fourth time.

Gewant took seven songs that ranged from Britney Spears to classical Italian pieces.

Guest speakers included Terrance Mann, who has won Tony Award nominations for his roles in *Les Misérables* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Dawn Wells, who many know as Mary Ann from *Gilligan's Island*, also directed two workshops.

Five Elon faculty members also attended the conference and conducted workshops on areas of expertise, such as scenic design and lighting.

Faculty also auditioned high school juniors for Elon's performing arts programs.

Students began working on their 90-second monologue and song packages as early as August. New York casting director Dave Clemmons, who has his own casting agency, came to Elon earlier this year to give students pointers on auditioning, and photographers were also brought in to take headshots.

Gewant said she spent about one and a half hours each day preparing her audition pieces. She said she hopes to land a summer job with the Jekyll Island Musical Theatre in Valdosta, Ga.

Senior Nathan Moore went to SETC for the third time.

"Each year has been a learning experience," he said. "I feel like I've become more efficient [at auditioning]."

After receiving several job offers, Moore has decided to work at the Heritage Repertory Theatre in Charlottesville, Va., this summer.



Haley



Gewant

## Camerata tours South

**Ashley Regan**  
Reporter

In February, the Elon University Camerata proved that it was no typical musical group. Under the direction of Stephen Futrell, the 22 Camerata performers toured from North Carolina to Georgia, showing they could not only put on a good show, but they could also become a bonded and unified group in the process.

The tour's primary purpose was to serve as a recruiting tour for Elon. Performing at six high schools and junior highs over three days, Camerata members said they hoped to promote not only Elon, but the music department as well.

This type of tour is common in many schools, but Futrell said, "It is uncommon [at Elon] so we are trying to get into the swing of things."

Each program consisted of a 45-minute music performance and a question-and-answer period about the school and the music department. Futrell said that this method of recruiting has proven

successful at other universities, and he hopes to see results at Elon in the next few years.

Jason Joyner, a junior music major and member of Camerata, enjoyed the closeness brought by the tour.

"You get to know the people you sing with better and create relationships," Joyner said. He decided to join Camerata because he was involved in choral groups in high school.

"It was a more select vocal ensemble that I knew would sing some more difficult music," Joyner said.

In addition to their performances at the schools, Camerata members also had the opportunity to perform at Skidaway Island United Methodist Church in Savannah, Ga.

Although the traveling part of the tour is over, Camerata will perform again this spring at Elon. At 7:30 p.m. on March 15, Camerata will give a 45-minute performance in Whitley Auditorium. The group will perform a wide array of pieces, including Mozart, Brahms, Stephen Foster and a spiritual piece.

## 'The Osbournes' highlights rock family in new MTV reality show

**Ellen Gray**  
Knight Ridder

Ozzie and Harriet they're not.

But Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne and their children just might be the perfect sitcom family.

At least the stars of MTV's "The Osbournes," a "situation reality series" that premiered two weeks ago, seem to possess the ingredients networks usually look for in casting a family comedy—a clueless but charismatic dad whose job allows him to spend plenty of time at home.

Sure, being an aging rock star known for eating bats onstage isn't as "normal" as working in a nuclear power plant, like "The Simpsons'" Homer, or being a sportswriter like "Everybody Loves Raymond's" Ray Barone.

But it does bring plenty of perks,

including built-in opportunities for celebrity cameos, such as Tuesday's Jay Leno appearance. And at least we know what this Ozzy does: In "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet," which also starred a real-life Hollywood family, TV viewers were never really told how former bandleader Ozzie Nelson made a living.

—A sensible, good-humored mother, whose grasp of reality seems to be greater than her husband's.

Sharon swears more than most sitcom mothers—and MTV obligingly bleeps it out each time she does—but it's hard to imagine even "Malcolm in the Middle's" formidable Lois doing a better job as the ringleader of this particular circus.

—Two squabbling teen-age children (the Osbournes' third child, Amy, 18, isn't involved in the show). Kelly, 17, sports pink hair,

while Jack, 16, favors a more military look. Both inherited their parents' tendency to punctuate with profanity.

Unlike Showtime's rock-star comedy, "The Chris Isaak Show," "The Osbournes" is supposedly unscripted. MTV, using the technique employed in "The Real World" and "Road Rules," filmed the family for nearly six months and then edited it into something resembling a story.

The premiere, which focuses on the family's move into their new home in Beverly Hills—Sharon estimates it's the 24th house her kids have lived in—might well be an episode of "The Munsters," as the camera focuses on the little decorating touches that make the Osbournes the Osbournes, including a box labeled "dead things."

But it's the character touches that make "The Osbournes" work.

At one point, Ozzy's efforts to master the satellite TV's remote control proving in vain, he calls in Jack, who sets things up and then settles in with Dad to watch the History Channel.

Later, Ozzy, trying to offer fatherly advice to Jack on handling his sister, remarks, "I love you all. I love you more than life itself, but you're all f—ing mad."

An appearance on "The Tonight Show" requires Sharon and Kelly's presence backstage, Sharon explaining that Ozzy's nervous because though "he likes Jay a lot, doing TV makes him nervous."



photo courtesy of www.mtv.com  
Legendary rock star Ozzy Osbourne and family are the stars of MTV's newest reality show, "The Osbournes," which airs Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Looks as if he'd better get used to it. The show airs Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m.

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