

# NewCentury makes plans to build future

**Matt Belanger**

Reporter

As Elon continues to grow, the NewCentury@Elon plan will help the university expand its facilities in order to support the increasing student and faculty population.

Numerous construction and renovation projects have already been completed. The renovation of the Carlton building brought study abroad and international studies to the heart of campus. Also, the construction of a new quad in the southeast corner of the campus was started in the fall of 2002 with the completion of the William Kenan Jr. Honors Pavilion and the Isabella Cannon

International Pavilion.

Four additional pavilions are planned, as well as a larger classroom building that will anchor the new quad to the south.

The new pavilions will not only provide additional student housing; but, according to Director of Residence Life Doug Searcy, they will also support the university's mission to provide students with opportunities for engaged learning.

"Elon is privileged to be able to supply a unique blend that supports both curricular and co-curricular environment where students and faculty share one facility," Searcy said. "Moving in this direction in the future will definitely continue to

support Elon's high standard of academic excellence through a continuation of our dedication to provide quality facilities and services."

One of the most recent campus development projects involves the planning of the new Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center, scheduled to be built north of McMichael Science Center.

The \$9 million facility is slated to include a state-of-the-art theater and a large glass atrium at the rear of the building that will house faculty offices and student workspaces. In a presentation last month to the Board of Trustees, Vice President of Business, Finance and Technology Gerald Whittington explained that "the building will be designed to promote student engagement."

The building will be the first in a

“Moving in this direction will definitely continue to support Elon's high standard of academic excellence...”

—Doug Searcy, director of Residence Life

## The Future of Elon Series

Part 5

## Essay contest surpasses years past

**Jessica Patchett**

Assistant News Editor

The seventh year of Elon's Phillip L. Carret Endowment Thomas Jefferson Essay Contest produced decidedly the most competitive and intellectually stimulating pool of entries, according to judges. Freshman Kristen Lankford took top honors, followed by junior Carey Bostian, who took second, and senior William Duffy and freshman John Parsons, who tied for third place. These students and 11 other contestants were recognized at a dinner held Monday in the Isabella Cannon room.

During the dinner, faculty readers commented on the quality of this year's applicants.

"I am the only one who has read every single Jefferson essay at Elon College/University. So, I really can say this is the best group of essays," said Jim Barbour, associate professor of economics.

The essay contest was established in 1997 by the endowment of Phillip Carret, an investment tycoon and journalist of the 1900s. Carret visited Elon in 1996, a year

and a half before his death in 1997. Mark Albertson, registrar and assistant to the provost, visited with Carret during his first night in town at the Hampton Inn in Burlington.

As Albertson was leaving the room, Carret called to Albertson with an idea.

"If I gave a little money, maybe \$1,500, would you be willing to manage a contest, maybe about Thomas Jefferson? What if Thomas Jefferson came back to life - what would he think of

this company," Albertson said he remembers Carret saying as he sat on a bed in an old undershirt.

Soon after, the university received a check for \$1,500, at which point Albertson developed a committee to decide on a question for the year.

"The reason we kept it with Jefferson is that it was Mr. Carret's first question. I contacted Monticello and they agreed to host the winning student," Albertson said. Daniel P. Jordan, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, offered this experience, in addition to the monetary

award, to the top three entries.

The only stipulation Carret had regarding the essay contest was that Elon send him the three winning papers, according to Albertson.

Not expecting anything in reply from Carret, Albertson said he was shocked when he soon received "a real nice letter and \$40,000 of IBM stock to keep the contest going."

This year's topic is in regard to Jefferson's view of religion, particularly that which he expresses in "A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom in Virginia, 1785."

"Religion crosses the centuries between his life and this world we've inherited," associate professor of history Clyde Ellis said, regarding the relevance and importance of this year's topic.

Faculty, such as associate provost Nancy Midgette, said they regard the contest and the yearly topics as a large contribution to a well-rounded college education, "That is the true value of a liberal arts education ... fostering an inquiring mind," Midgette said.

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third quad that will be built on top of the present intramural fields. The other buildings that will comprise the quad have not been assigned specific purposes; however, a smaller building is going to be built concurrently with the business facility that will house classrooms and a student dining facility.

Final plans for the business center are scheduled to be finished this summer.

The university's other initiatives into 2007 include strategic land

acquisition for future campus development. Also, the university is looking to strengthen its relationship with the Town of Elon by bringing more businesses and retailers and to downtown Elon.

President Leo Lambert has made it clear that regardless of Elon's growth, the university will not lose track of its goal to maintain community.

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