

Changes abound on campus

First phase of air conditioning project complete; news set built

Matt Belanger

Assistant News Editor

Summer construction at Elon has brought a number of changes to campus. Renovations, new construction and new technology have been added in various areas on campus to prepare for the start of the 2003-2004 academic year.

Residence Hall Changes

With 2,691 students living in university housing this fall, Nikki Turley, assistant director of Residence Life, has been busy preparing for the start of the school year. The first phase of the residence hall air conditioning project was completed just in time for the start of the fall semester.

A chilled-water air conditioning system was installed in Sloan, West and Virginia and window units were installed in Colclough, Chandler and Maynard. The second phase of the project will be completed next summer, when Smith, Carolina, Hook, Brannock and Barney will receive air conditioning. Carpet was also replaced in Moffit and added in Virginia.

Bathrooms in Jordan Center buildings B and C were also renovated, while the entire Jordan Center

received new paint and landscaping. Jordan Center A will be single-room housing this year, instead of traditional double rooms.

New security measures were also added to reinforce student safety on campus. Card-swipe units were installed on each of the exterior doors of nine residence halls. These units will allow students to unlock the doors with a swipe of their Phoenix card. However, only resident of each building will be coded for entry.

Dining Hall Changes

"Varsity," a new sports-themed restaurant will be open this fall in the former downstairs McEwen dining area. This new dining location will offer students an additional on-campus dining option with sit-down service. Varsity will accept Phoenix cash, meal dollars, cash and credit cards. The facility is equipped with a Direct TV satellite and 14 large screen televisions. A separate theater-style seating area with oversized lounge chairs and a projection television will offer students an alternative to traditional seating. Varsity will be open daily for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and will close at 1 a.m.

Other renovations include the addition of a sushi bar in the take-out area located in downstairs McEwen. Packaged sushi will also be available for sale at the Acom Coffee Shop and Octagon.

Glass partitions were installed in Harden dining hall to allow additional space for student organizations to hold meetings during evening hours.

Director of Food Services Jeff Gazda says he thinks students will be pleased with the new menu items chosen during the brand refresh completed this summer. Gazda says the Real Food On Campus program will continue this year, bringing students additional quality menu items at all campus dining locations.

New Facilities

Construction will begin Aug. 26 on the next pavilion in the Academic Village, which will house the political science department and Elon polling center. The building, scheduled to open in the fall of 2004, will feature a number of classrooms and conference rooms as well as additional faculty offices. The new polling center will provide political science students with cutting-edge technolo-



Matt Belanger/ Photographer

This new sculpture, titled "Phoenix Rising," was donated to the university by Irwin Belk and was mounted outside Rhodes Stadium this summer.

gy they can use to learn about the orchestration and execution of a public opinion poll.

Improvements were also made in Moseley Center, including new office space for the Student Government Association and expansion of the Kernodle Center for Service Learning. New space was also created on the first floor of the McMichael Science Center to allow for more student-faculty interaction. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Steven House says this interaction is a crucial part of an Elon education.

"I believe the key to a quality education is the mentoring relationship between our faculty and students, both inside and outside of the classroom," he said. "We like to create opportunities for that type of interaction to happen."

Additional Changes

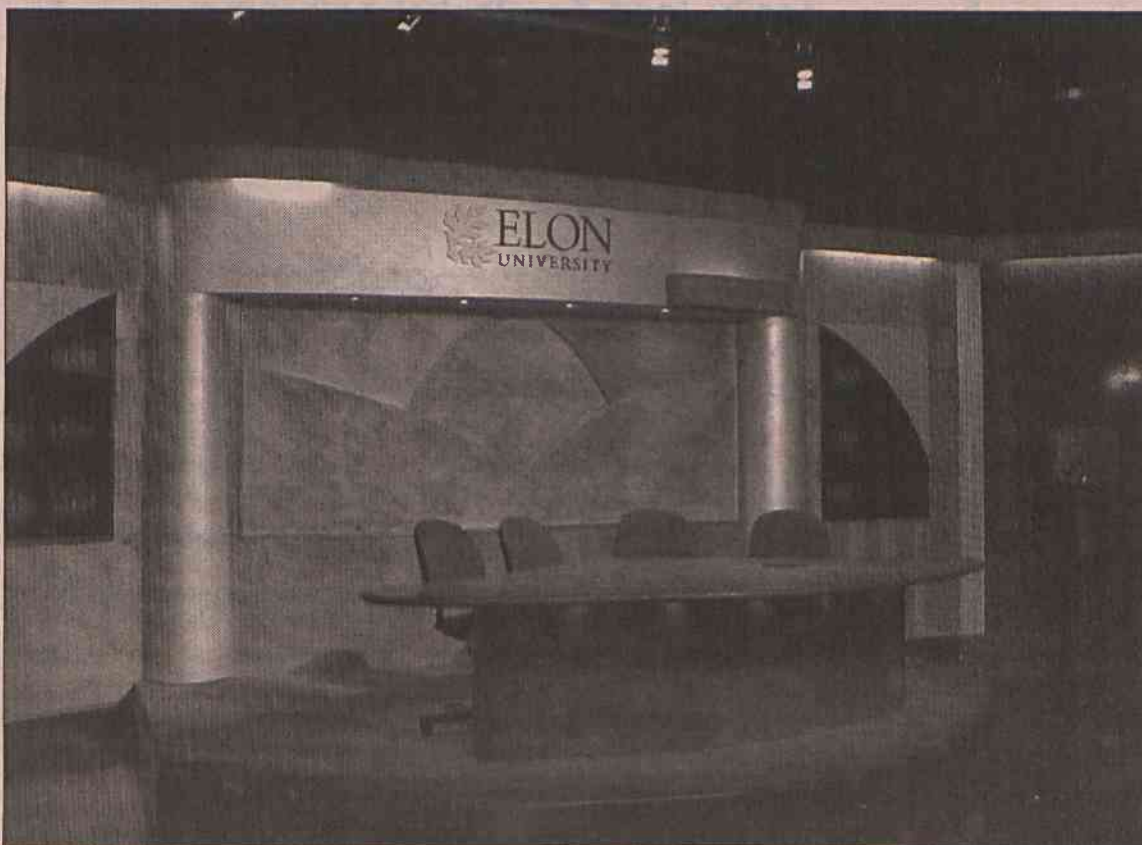
Artist John Hair's bronze sculpture "Phoenix Rising" was mounted next to the entrance to Rhodes Stadium this summer. The completion of the sculpture was delayed in order to allow the artist additional time to perfect the sculpture's design. Irwin Belk, a Charlotte, N.C., business leader and longtime Elon benefactor, donated the sculpture to the university.

Additionally, new online services are now being offered for both students and parents. The Elon community can now take advantage of online tuition payment and parking registration.

Work is also underway on the installation of a mass data storage system that will be accessible through the university's network. Gerald Whittington, vice president of business, finance and technology, says the new storage system's seven terabytes of space will make it easier for students to transport and work on large projects while on campus. Each student and faculty member will be assigned their own personal account on the system, allowing their work to remain secured by password protection.

New technology was also purchased for a number of computer labs on campus. The School of Communications received new computers in all of its labs and added an additional lab. The school also constructed a state-of-the-art, \$16,000 news set for its television studio designed to specifically meet the needs of the growing communications program.

Contact Matt Belanger at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



Matt Belanger/ Photographer

The new news set, located in McEwen studio A, was contracted by Beaver Construction at a cost of \$16,000.