

THE PENDULUM

Volume 29, Issue 3

September 4, 2003

www.elon.edu/pendulum

If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

Counseling demand up nationwide

Steve Earley
News Editor

Elon and colleges across the country are reporting a rise in the demand for counseling services.

In an annual University of Pittsburgh survey of 274 counseling center directors — including Elon's Director of Counseling Services Bruce Nelson — more than 80 percent reported a significant increase in serious psychological problems such as depression and anxiety.

The counseling center has seen a steady rise in visits each year, climbing from 261 in 2000-01 to 370 in 2002-03, a 42 percent increase. Over the same time period enrollment increased 7 percent. In August the center logged 35 visits, compared to 10 visits in August 2002.

"We're experiencing an increase in what you might call more complex mental health cases," Nelson said. "It's not just roommate problems."

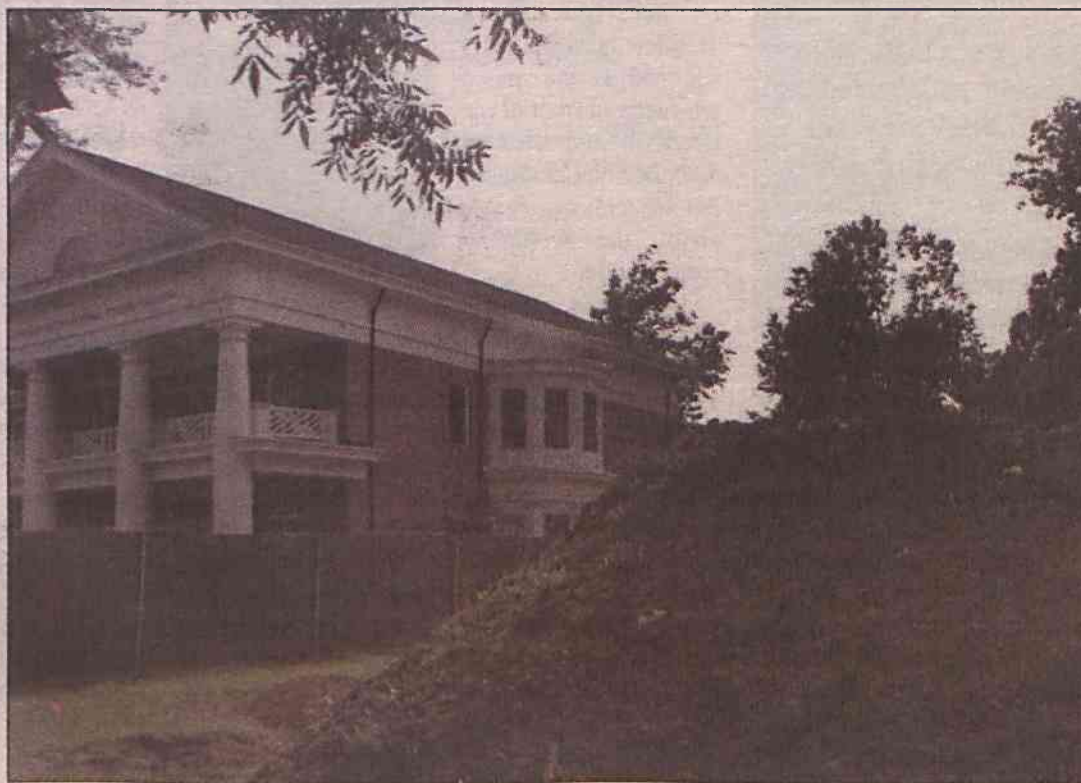
The most common problems are anxiety and depression. In 2001-2002 academic year, 58 percent of clients were classified as anxious and 42 percent were classified as depressed. Nelson said the two problems account for about 70 percent of visits.

The increase in counseling visits may not necessarily mean a greater prevalence of psychological problems, however.

Nelson pointed to a number of possible explanations.

One is better access to coun-

See **HEALTH** p. 10



Jeff Heyer / Photo Editor

Ground was broken for the next addition to the Academic Village Aug. 26 during a ceremony held at the first College Coffee of the year. The new pavilion will house the political science department and construction is expected to be completed for the start of the fall 2004 semester. The building will add 15 faculty offices, a 37-seat classroom, a 20-seat seminar room and a 40-terminal polling center to campus.

New pavilion to house Elon Poll and political science department

Matt Belanger
Assistant News Editor

Next fall, students who participate in the Elon poll will be the first to use the new state-of-the-art polling center, which will be located in the political science pavilion currently under construction in the Academic Village.

"The new academic pavilion will provide the physical space needed for the Elon Institute of Politics and Public Affairs, the Center for Public Affairs and the Center for Public Opinion Polling and will give Elon students a front-row seat on democracy," said Steven House, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

House said the building is designed to continue Elon's goal of encouraging engaged learning.

"The new academic pavilion is designed to enhance the personal interaction between faculty and students and to be a showcase for integrating formal and informal learning in creative and dynamic ways," he said.

A group-study room, conference room and a space labeled as a "student engagement area" will allow for interaction in a variety of ways, said Nancy Midgette, assistant provost. Midgette was involved in the design of the building.

"Imagine how exciting it will be to have such a space readily adjacent to faculty offices, so that students and faculty can meet together in a less formal setting," she said.

See **PAVILION** p. 10

Graduate job market looks up

Adam Smith
Reporter

Graduating seniors are nervous; the 1999 job market boom did not last long enough. It seems, though, the worst is over.

The job market is getting better, according to reports released by WetFeet, a job search Web site. This means that recent college graduates and those students nervous about finding jobs upon graduation can let out a small sigh of relief.

According to Jim Allison, the assistant director of Elon's career center, the market shift has to do with demographic factors. Allison said the baby-boomer generation is aging. In the near-future, these men and women will begin retiring at a rapid rate.

According to an article in Business 2.0, there will soon be too much demand and not enough workers. The article reports executives at large corporations such as Cigna, Intel, SAS and Adecco have told Business 2.0 that they worry that the supply of labor is about to fall seriously short of demand.

The generation that will retire is larger than the younger generations. The question will not be whether a job can be found, but whether there are enough people to fill the jobs. For this year's graduating seniors, this is a ray of hope.

"I think it's going to be a changed market," Allison said.

See **SENIORS** p. 10

P15: Students fly for less money thanks to the "Student Universe" Web site.

P23: Learn about Elon's new volleyball coach Mary Tendler.