

# THE PENDULUM

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## Koury business center to become reality in 2005

60,000 square-foot center will be built on intramural fields, says dean of Love School of Business

Jessica Patchett

Editor-in-Chief

Construction of the new 60,000 square-foot Ernest A. Koury Sr. Business Center, which will be located on O'Kelly Avenue north of McMichael science center, will begin no later than March 2005, said John Burbridge, dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business. The project will be underway in time for Elon to celebrate the building's groundbreaking with 2005 spring convocation speaker Sen. John Glenn in April and will be completed by fall 2006.

The building will house faculty offices, a dean suite, student break-out rooms, a "digital lecture hall" and 20 classrooms – more than enough to house the business program, Burbridge said.

"This is a building that's not just for the business school, but for all of Elon," Burbridge said, referring to additional classroom space, student study rooms and new facilities other



Jeff Heyer / Photo Editor

The business center (center) will house more than 20 classrooms of different formats, a dean's suite and faculty offices. Four other buildings are still in the discussion stage and will not be funded in any part by the \$9.5 million needed for the main building. The other buildings could house dining, residence halls or additional office space.

departments may utilize.

Elon administrators included the project plans in a presentation to vis-

iting deans in the business school's Schools of Business. The three quest for accreditation by The deans who visited this Sunday Association to Advance Collegiate through Wednesday will use their

impressions of the business school's progress to make a decision regarding accreditation by April.

Schematic drawings, plans that precede architectural designs, are near completion, according to Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology. Spillman-Farmer and Associates, the architecture firm responsible for Academic Pavilion houses, will have construction drawings for the business center completed this summer. After Elon secures a contractor late this summer, groundbreaking of the business center will depend on fund raising.

"We have raised \$7 million so far. We have \$2.5 million to go," Burbridge said. If all \$9.5 million needed for the business center is collected before March 2005, construction may begin sooner, Whittington said.

Crews have begun preparing the Elon Homes for Children site for

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## Blackboard upgrades underway, online services to be expanded

Ashley Feibish

Asst. News Editor

Elon's department of campus technology has brought a new Blackboard system and improvements to other Internet resources. For students, Blackboard 6 is only slightly different from the previous version, Blackboard 5. One new feature is the portal component of Blackboard 6.

The portal will allow students to customize Blackboard to best suit their needs. The tabs at the top of the page after login are the first steps in developing full use of the portal feature.

Over the next several months, modules will be added to Blackboard, representing the

integration of the portal system.

The preliminary audience of the portal system will be faculty, students and staff. Some secondary audiences will have limited access to the portal's features. The use of a portal will consolidate many of the operations performed through Blackboard and Datatel.

Faculty will enjoy several new and improved features, including a customizable course menu and the observer role, which allows faculty to monitor the work and activities of particular students. Faculty members are now able to create assignments and post them for students to complete. A lightweight chat feature allows for online sessions, as well as a virtual classroom that allows a class to

communicate online.

"This is an entirely new generation of Blackboard," said Patty Brown, associate director of instructional design and development. She said she expects students and faculty will have full use of the portal feature, which is similar to my Yahoo, by summer or fall of 2004.

Brian Baute, assistant director of information systems and technology for web technology, said the new portal will be integrated with Blackboard, so eventually, all online services should be accessible through the same interface.

"There will be no solid line between them," Baute said. "Blackboard and Datatel

[Elon OnTrack] will eventually start to blur and those systems will start to talk to each other."

New content will include a bookmarking feature, a dictionary, a thesaurus and a calculator. These features will be introduced over the next several months.

Technology specialists said they hope all students will eventually be able to register for parking and housing online using the new system.

Ron Driscoll, director of information systems and technology, said a committee will decide what the portal will look like and how

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**P14:** What are Elon students and organizations doing for Valentine's Day?

**P25:** Men's basketball wins four of last five games; Next game Feb. 14 at East Tennessee State.