

Botanical garden status serves as an educational tool

Brittany Smith
News Editor

Elon's newest recognition is in the form of a garden, a botanical garden in fact. Dr. Leo Lambert signed a resolution declaring the campus a botanical garden on Jan. 3, 2005.

According to the new resolution, a botanical garden is defined as a collection of plants for the purposes of education, research or display. The garden provides a positive aesthetic experience, botanical and environmental information for the students, faculty and community, a model of appropriate stewardship of the environment, research opportunities and serves the public as a community resource.

In order to provide environmental information to the students, faculty and community the landscaping department will begin labeling all the plants in the different garden areas around the campus. They will also be hosting public education tours about the wide variety of plants found around campus and on topics like pesticides starting in February.

Along with signs giving the name of the plant, there will also be several interpretive displays that explain why the landscaper decided to include the plant in the garden. "With the new signs and displays we hope to offer engaged learning to the community by beginning people's train of thought about the environment," said Tom Flood, superintendent of landscaping and grounds.

To model appropriate stewardship of the environment, the landscaping department hopes to plant a variety of plants around campus. However, a monoculture of plants will make the campus susceptible to plant diseases that could potentially wipeout an entire collection. "Diseases like sudden oak death could potentially harm Elon because of all the oak trees around campus, but we are trying to pre-

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—Tom Flood, superintendent of grounds”

vent that by introducing a very diverse group of plants around the campus," Flood said.

Botanical garden status can also aid in education. The gardens can be used for research or display. The status also makes Elon eligible for scholarships and grants for research or further education.

A new garden will be added to the campus between the Alamance and Long buildings and a new design for the McEwen courtyard is planned.

Designing a garden can take up to three weeks. There are many factors and variables to look at when designing a garden such as size, color, sunlight needed, soil preference, bloom time and if the plant is in stock in local nurseries.

"The Princeton Review ranks Elon in their top 20 for most beautiful campuses. Many students chose to come here because of the beauty of the campus. We just try to maintain that look for them and give back to the community as well. This new status refocuses our mission and gives Elon recognition where it is due," Flood said.

Contact Brittany Smith at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Architects selected for law school

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The first step for Elon's new law school has been taken. The architects for the school have been chosen, they are J. Hyatt Hammond Associates and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott.

J. Hyatt Hammond Associates is a local architectural firm located in Greensboro. The firm was selected for the project because of their "considerable experience with renovation work in Greensboro," said Neil Bromilow, the director of construction management.

Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, an international architectural firm based in Boston, was chosen for the six million dollar renovation project because of their great design work on the Carol Grotnes Belk Library completed in 2000.

Demolition work for the new project began on Jan 10. Bromilow expects that the new building will be completed by spring of 2006. The school will have four levels. The two underground levels will house the library while the two upper levels will be filled with academic classrooms, individual and group study/meeting places and faculty offices. The 69,000 square feet of space will have technology access. The new facility promises to be state-of-the-art, with specialized classrooms as well.

The law building will be located at 201 N. Greene St. in Greensboro, in the former Greensboro Central Public Library.

Contact Brittany Smith at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



The flower beds at Elon are now more than just pretty, they are part of the botanical garden and will be used to educate the community about different plants native to North Carolina.

Laura Hals / Photographer

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