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# The Pendulum

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Ashley Barnas/ Assistant Photo Editor

Students lined up through the dining hall for the opening of the Colonnades on Friday. The new dining hall features a large variety of restaurant and dining options.

## Colonnades finally open for business

**Kristin Feeney**  
Reporter

For college students, next to sleep, nothing is more important than food. For Elon students, this past Friday afternoon marked the opening of the long-awaited Colonnades Dining Hall.

"The Colonnades opening highlights two years of an entire student-influenced process," said Rita Gordish, district marketing manager of ARAMARK. This process utilized surveys, demographic studies, and interest planning groups to better

recognize Elon students' needs and satisfaction.

The resulting two-story, seven-restaurant hall and market is, "the kind of place that could easily be one of the nicest campus facilities around," junior Mac Wilson said. "It's really upscale, I feel off-campus."

Looks weren't the only thing students praised. At the 1889 Grill Room, a full-service restaurant named after the year of Elon's founding, students were stunned to find an upscale establishment that actually takes meal plan swipes. One student

joked that it was "unprecedented and finally putting our meal dollars to value".

Another eatery is on the second floor include Isabella's, a restaurant named after Elon's own Isabella Cannon and her passion for cultural diversity. Isabella's serves up international cuisine right before guests on the Mongolian-style grill.

If Isabella's isn't your style, there's a meal at Tuscany, the all-you-care-to-eat Mediterranean style firestone oven buffet where pasta and pizza are always on the menu. For a sweet treat

or a fix for a carb-craze, the Bread Basket bakery offers a number of breads, pastries, sandwiches, soups and delectable desserts.

For those who don't have time to sit down upstairs, the Colonnades first floor is doing its part to satisfy on-the-goers, too.

Shopping at the organic Fountain Market is made easy and get the same products supplied to Whole Foods Market chains. During prime growing seasons, the marketplace even

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## New bill increases tuition funding

**Maggie Griffiths**  
Reporter

Congress recently approved the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which will provide \$20 billion in aid to make college more affordable in upcoming years.

The bill, approved on Sept. 7, will spark the largest increase in federal tuition funding since the end of World War II.

Over the next six years, the maximum Federal Pell Grant (which provides aid to 5 million low-income students per year) will gradually increase on a yearly basis.

The maximum Pell Grant is currently \$4,310. By the 2012-13

academic year, the grant will top off at \$11,600.

Patrick Murphy, director of financial planning, said that 352 Elon students receive the Federal Pell Grant. This year, 89 of those students received the maximum grant.

"That is a relatively small proportion of Elon's population, but for those students, the impact of a higher Pell Grant will be felt," Murphy said.

The bill also creates an Income Based Repayment Program, which will allow borrowers to repay their student loans as a percentage of their income. Borrowers with low salaries will therefore be protected from making unmanageable payments.

The bill's call for debt forgiveness will benefit those who chose to pursue a career in the public sector, such as teachers in low-income areas, librarians and law enforcement officials.

"Teaching is a profession where you give back to your community," said senior Cyndie Kline, an elementary education major. "They don't have the extra money to pay for a great education because they're already giving back."

This aspect of the act will allow up to \$1,000 of debt forgiveness per year of public service.

Additionally, the bill calls for a reduction in the interest rates on

subsidized Federal Stafford loans.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, 1,471 Elon students received a subsidized Stafford Loan.

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Graphic by Angie Lovelace