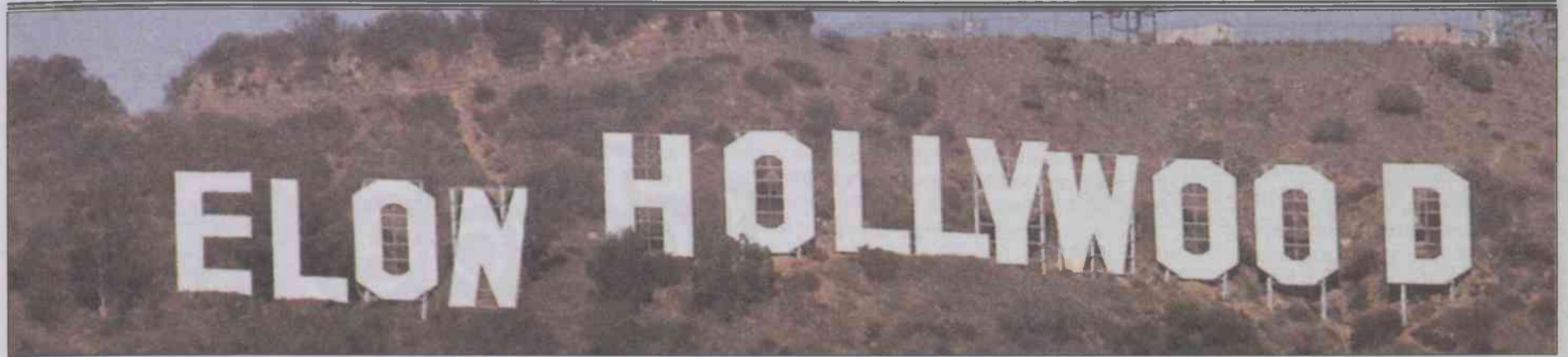


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Graphic by J. McMerty

Elon finds a home on West Coast Internship program in Los Angeles will take 15 to 20 students

Lesley Tkaczyk
Reporter

Students weren't the only ones who went exploring this winter term. Elon administrators were traveling too, establishing opportunities for students to spend some time under California skies.

Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, and Gerry Francis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, traveled to Los Angeles in January to work out details for the "Elon in Los Angeles Program," a new domestic study abroad opportunity for students set to start this summer.

The program is looking to find 15-20 students to travel to Los Angeles for the summer to participate in an internship for credit. Students will also take a currently untitled 2-credit course on the business of Hollywood.

The program is focused on students in the School of Communications but is open to all majors. Parsons hopes "to accommodate any student who has a compelling reason to want to be in Los Angeles." It is also currently open to all grade levels although juniors and seniors are strongly encouraged to apply.

The cost is estimated to be about \$6,000 to \$7,000 for the summer, which would include tuition for six

credit hours as well as housing and programming costs, according to Connie Book, associate dean of the School of Communications.

Parsons and Francis met with leaders of other Los Angeles based communications programs from Ithaca College and the University of Texas during their visit and explored options for facilities and housing. They are currently planning to use Oakwood Toluca Hills Apartments in Burbank as the home-base for this summer.

This facility is used by Ithaca College for their Los Angeles program and Parsons thinks it's a "perfect fit" for Elon as well.

"We decided that it looked like a very good place for student housing since they also have a classroom available for us to lease," Parsons said. "We'd imagine students staying there, having the class there and then, of course, going to their internships."

One of the most appealing features of the Oakwood housing to Elon is that they have special arrangements with rental agencies where people under the age of 25 can rent a car. This is essential in Los Angeles where transportation can be an issue.

The program will be led by School of Communications staff member, J. McMerty who is anxious to start the first year.

"I am very excited to be part of the first Elon in

L.A. program," McMerty said. "My hope is that all of our students will get a great internship that will let them gain valuable experience in their chosen profession."

Help finding that internship may be the biggest draw of this new program. The existing relationship Elon has with Ithaca's Los Angeles Program has enabled the School to secure access to Ithaca's database of internships, which Parsons calls a "wealth of information."

This partnership with Ithaca was where the idea for the program began. Elon was referring students interested in a West Coast internship experience to Ithaca and, according to Parsons, after a while it just no longer made sense.

Parsons said he has high hopes for the program and looks forward to expanding it to be year-round in the near future.

"In some ways this is an experiment," he said. "We plan to continue it, but right now, since we've never done this before, we'll do our best to publicize it and then just how it goes."

Applications for the program are tentatively due the first week of March. Book and Parsons encourage interested students to attend one of the two information held on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 22 at 3:30 p.m. in McEwen 011.

Harden gets revamped food options this spring

Alex Moss and Kaylyn Swankoski
Reporters

Many students were surprised to find Harden Dining Hall closed during Winter Term. During that time, there was a series of preparations being made in anticipation for its grand re-opening Feb. 4.

Harden Dining Hall will remain the same structurally, but the food options are set to change.

Highlighted in this food renovation is the expansion of the salad bar, which will consist of more toppings, both hot and cold. Also included is a new wok station and stir fry option, a running rotisserie, homemade soups with a large selection of fresh breads, a menu board for the grill and an assortment of desserts.

ARAMARK also plans to respond to student requests and change the dining hall hours. Upon re-opening, the lunch/brunch hours will be from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

According to Laura Thompson, director of food services at Elon,

Harden's decline in traffic was "drastic and immediate" following the opening of the Colonnades.

In previous years, upwards of 300 students would dine at Harden for dinner, yet this past semester there was a decline to around 175. With such a decrease in numbers, the transformations at Harden are an attempt to boost its popularity.

Senior Lindsay Dombert was a residential assistant in Staley dormitory for two years and remembers how crowded Harden used to get. She believes the current shift in attention is no surprise with the opening of the Colonnades.

Food service employees hope that Elon students will now understand that regardless of the dining location, the food quality is equal throughout. This will hopefully attract more people to Harden.

Though Harden is now seen as the oldest dining hall on campus, it was renovated less than three years ago. The main goal of that renovation was to introduce ARAMARK's Real Food on Campus program, which brought



David Wells/ Assistant Photo Editor

The chain doors stayed closed in Harden Dining Hall this Winter Term.

cooking in front of the students.

Last semester, a survey was sent to students about on-campus dining services. The results were hugely influential and might even lead to a

summer renovation of Harden. But, because they have not been entirely analyzed, specific plans and a budget have not been set.