



# THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2008 | VOLUME 34, EDITION 17

www.elon.edu/pendulum



(From left) Carl Lindner IV, Christopher Lindner, President Leo M. Lambert, Martha Lindner and Carl Lindner III break ground for the most environmentally-friendly facility on campus.

ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer

## Construction begins on Lindner academic building

Olivia Hubert-Allen  
Editor-in-Chief

Construction may have begun weeks ago on the new focal point of the Academic Village, but on Wednesday, university administrators joined the Lindner family of Cincinnati to

"symbolically" break ground on Elon's newest building, Lindner Hall.

The 30,000-square-foot facility will be the home to the sociology and anthropology department, the history and geography department, and the administrative offices for the school of arts and sciences.

After Lindner Hall is completed, eight of the 17 academic departments that are a part of the College of Arts and Sciences will reside within the Academic Village.

"The construction of the Lindner

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## INCH by INCH row by row

Heather Macdonald  
Reporter

Four years ago, the class of 2008 was welcomed to the Elon community at New Student Convocation. At the end of the ceremony, all the students received an acorn to symbolize the beginning of their college careers.

These same students are about to graduate, and at the end of Commencement, each will receive a Shumond oak sapling. This young tree symbolizes the growth students have experienced during their time at Elon, as well as the growth that they are sure to experience in years to come.

The tradition began in 1991 when Furman Moseley spoke to the graduating class.

Moseley, a 1956 graduate of Elon, incorporated his career in the timber business by giving each alum a redwood sapling.

Dr. J. Fred Young, president of Elon from 1973 to 1998, decided to make the gifting of saplings a permanent tradition in 1992. Instead of a redwood sapling, he opted to give each student an oak sapling in accordance with the meaning of the school's name.

When Dr. Leo Lambert became president, he built upon the tradition by giving each new student an acorn at New Student Convocation. The acorn played in to the sapling tradition by symbolizing the growth of each student, from a

Elon has ordered 1,500 oak tree saplings to give the class of 2008. The sapling is a symbol of the growth that students have experienced at Elon.

metaphorical acorn to a tree, ready to grow and extend its roots.

What happens to the sapling after graduation is up to each student.

Elic Senter, a 1999 graduate and the current mayor of Franklinton, N.C., said that when he graduated, he thought the tradition seemed somewhat cheesy. Yet as he has gotten older, he has realized just how fitting this tradition really is.

"My tree is really a symbol of my own growth in the nine years since I left Elon," he said. "If a tree can grow 20 feet, imagine what a human can do."

Michael Bumbry, a 2007 graduate and former executive president of the SGA, realized the importance of the sapling early on.

"I love the idea, and it is definitely one of the highlights of graduation day," Bumbry said. He planted the sapling at his childhood home in Virginia and said his mom continues to care for it.

"The sapling is essentially a symbolic capstone on an incredible experience that illustrates growth and maturity," Bumbry said. "The sapling is yet another example of how Elon is truly unique and receiving it is just a reminder of how special of a place it really is."

Not all graduates have had the best of luck with their saplings. Many students lose their saplings in the commute from Elon, and others have saplings that just won't seem to grow.

Raechel Hester, a 2006 graduate who now works as assistant director of admissions, said that her sapling is planted at her parent's house in Maryland. But she's unsure of the tree's current condition.

"I think it is still surviving after a run in with the lawn mower," Hester said.

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## Francis to step into new role as executive VP

Provost has been at Elon for more than 30 years

Olivia Hubert-Allen  
Editor-in-Chief

After 14 years of serving as the provost and vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Gerry Francis is moving out of the Provost's Office — well, sort of.

Starting on June 1, 2009, Francis will move into President Leo Lambert's

office to begin as Elon's first executive vice president. He will leave his role as provost and a new provost will be named following a national search.

Though Francis is changing positions, many of his responsibilities will be the same. To create the executive vice president position,

the duties that are currently assigned to the provost will be divided in half.

There are several advantages behind the shuffle, Lambert said. It will change the provost's position so that he or she can focus exclusively on academic affairs and student life.

Another reason for the change is to add another member to Elon's senior staff, which has not grown for more than 10 years.

"It's like seeing yourself grow up," Francis said. "You didn't see yourself grow from (4-feet-2-inches to 4-feet-5-inches) but the next thing you know, you're 6 feet tall. The President's Office needs additional firepower now."

Currently, there are a number of responsibilities that fall under the provost: academic affairs, student life, admissions, cultural programs and athletics, among several others. After the switch, the provost will only deal with academic affairs and student life. The executive vice president will keep up with the rest.

"In the 10 years I've been here, the university has become a more complex institution," Lambert said. "The size of the senior staff has not grown to reflect that."

University officials expect that having an additional member of administrative staff will strengthen many of the programs already established at Elon.

Lambert says that Francis' history with Elon makes him the perfect fit for the university's first executive vice president. He has worked at Elon since 1974 when he joined the department of mathematics as an assistant professor. Francis joined the administrative side of Elon in 1983 and has been working as a staff member ever since.

Though Francis is eager to begin the new position, he says he will miss some things about serving as provost.

"I'll miss some of the day-to-day contacts [that I have with people]," he said. "There will be a little bit of withdrawal."

Until the position switch in 2009, Francis will continue in his role as the provost.



Gerry Francis