

# New stops improve BioBus efficiency

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Managing Editor

BioBus riders may have noticed some changes to the bus system when they arrived at their stops on the first day of class. Rather than having all five bus routes based at the McMichael depot, two other campus depots have been added and arrival times have been adjusted.

The West Loop's campus stop is now the Center for the Arts. The University Drive Line and the East Outer Loop will now use the Moseley lot near Belk Library. The East Inner Loop and the Danieley Tram will stay at McMichael.

"It puts a couple of the BioBuses even more in the center of campus," said Keith Dimont, supervisor of automotive services.

The bus will run every 15 minutes on the West Loop and Danieley Tram, every 20 minutes on the East Inner and Outer Loops and every 30 minutes on the University Drive Line.

Dimont said the primary reason for the change is the amount of traffic congestion near the McMichael depot. With lots of students walking between the buses on cell phones and iPods during high-traffic times, Dimont said people were concerned about students getting hurt.

"It just got to the point where we thought it was a safety issue," Dimont said.

Dimont and Robert Buchholz, director of physical plant, started looking into a new BioBus plan in early May. Dimont said it was a team effort he thinks will save mileage and fuel

and be more convenient for students. For example, rather than looping all the way back around to McMichael, the West Loop stops more closely and conveniently at the Center for the Arts.

"We looked at different variations and came up with what we feel is a better service and a safer service for folks," Buchholz said.

Before settling on using different bus stops, Dimont and Buchholz played with a few other ideas. They considered having a bus go to the Koury Athletic Center parking lot but determined the bus would be hard to maneuver in the crowded lot, so the Center for the Arts was selected instead.

"We looked at actually changing the curb at McMichael and making the space at the bus stop wider," Dimont said. "But we decided even though it would be more room, we would still have the same problem of congestion."

When they started developing the plan, Dimont and Buchholz talked to bus drivers about where students who rode the bus were going to and coming from. They realized many students came from Moseley to the McMichael stop, so they decided to add another stop at the Moseley and Belk parking lot.

"We had to consider that there was concern about the Moseley and Belk lot being crowded, so Keith came up with the idea of the one (University Drive) bus that only runs from 4 p.m. to midnight," Buchholz said.

Last year there was a 23 percent increase in BioBus ridership, and Dimont and Buchholz said they are hoping for an even bigger increase with the new system. Buchholz also emphasized the



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer  
Rather than all five bus routes stopping at the McMichael depot, two buses will stop at the Moseley and Belk Library lot and one will stop at the Center for the Arts. The heavy traffic congestion around McMichael and the desire to make the bus stops more convenient for students are the primary reasons for the change.

BioBus' role in campus sustainability efforts.

"It's better if you're getting on a bus carrying 15 or 20 people than taking a car," Buchholz said.

Though the new BioBus system just went into effect, Dimont and Buchholz are already brainstorming other ideas for the bus system. Dimont said students have expressed interest in a route that goes to South Campus. Buchholz is also looking into a new device that counts

riders getting on and off the bus, which would provide them with more accurate ridership statistics.

Buchholz said above all, they are looking for comments and suggestions from students.

"We're always looking to improve and make sure we're meeting people's needs," Buchholz said.

To view the new bus schedule, visit <http://org.elon.edu/transit/biobus/busSchedule.html>.

## University acknowledged for financial, workplace distinction

Laura Smith  
News Editor

This summer, Elon University added two more recognitions to its already long list of honors.

The first was the title of "Top Financial Find of 2010," according to Bruce Hammond, a former managing editor of the Fiske Guide to Colleges in an article on Reader's Digest.com. Criteria that gave Elon this honor included its welcoming environment, supportive faculty, hands-on learning opportunities and emphasis on global perspectives.

"Comparison shopping is the name of the game in today's college market," Hammond said in a statement. "College costs continue to rise, but more aid than ever before is available to help soften the blow."

Susan Klopman, vice president of admissions and financial planning, said Elon deserved this honor because of its policy of financial equality.

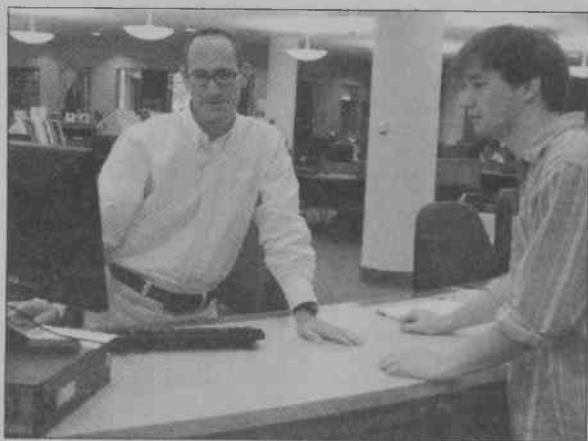
Compared to a larger school that offers larger financial aid packages but comes with a hefty sticker price, Elon keeps the tuition affordable to all, not just those receiving financial aid, Klopman said.

"We try to keep the cost of tuition as low as we possibly can rather than the normal higher-ed education," she said. "It has always been our policy to treat students equally with regard to the cost of tuition. Everyone gets the benefit."

The second recognition for the university was its addition to the 2009 list of "Great Colleges to Work For" program by The Chronicle of Higher Education. The program honors institutions for best practices and policies, including faculty-administration relations, confidence in senior leadership and compensation and benefits.

The second annual list comprises 150 colleges. Elon was among 10 medium-sized institutions to receive distinction in the areas of job satisfaction, policies, resources and efficiency, respect and appreciation, confidence in senior leadership, teaching environment, connection to institution and pride, facilities and security, healthy faculty-administration relations, internal communications and physical work space conditions.

"The most important resource Elon University provides to its students is an extraordinarily talented faculty and staff," President Leo Lambert said in a statement. "They create the environment on campus that fosters intellectual, personal and spiritual growth and set the tone for a welcoming, vibrant community. The survey results point to how invested our faculty and staff are in making Elon



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer  
Patrick Rudd, coordinator of access services at Belk Library, helps a student search for a book. Rudd has worked at Elon since 2005 and said he loves the benefits, both financial and in general, of working for Elon.

excellent in every respect."

Patrick Rudd, the coordinator of access services at Belk Library, began working at Elon in 2005. He was drawn to a job in the library after spending time among its shelves during his time in graduate school at North Carolina Central University.

"What I've appreciated the most (working at Elon) is the respect between the students and staff," he said. "It's a great environment. Everyone's working towards the same goals. There's no hierarchy."

Employees like Rudd also get insurance benefits for working at Elon, and according to Rudd, "the benefits are very good."

Rudd also praised the university for its ability to disseminate information within the system to everyone.

"I feel like there is clear communication of the university's goals at all levels," he said.

Results of The Chronicle's survey were based on responses from 41,000 administrators, faculty and staff members at 247 institutions. Questionnaires were given online in March and April 2009.

Elon's survey was given to employees in a random sample said Ron Klepcyk, director of human resources at Elon.

"This is a testament towards the satisfaction of working at a place like Elon," he said. "It has a reputation for making positive change."

According to Klepcyk, Elon is still seeing a flow of applications for positions coming despite the weak economy. He said there were 200 applications for the last clerical position offered.

"Elon continues to be a popular place to work," Klepcyk said. "It's a place where people want to be."

## New Student Convocation welcomes freshmen

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introduced them to the 340 faculty members sitting Under the Oaks with them.

"The Elon faculty are truly remarkable and devoted teachers, mentors and scholars," House said. "They will stretch you and challenge you more than you can even imagine."

In what President Leo Lambert called "one of the most meaningful occasions of the academic year," he announced it would be "the first of many goodbyes parents will say to their college-age children."

"In a parent's mind, remembrances both big and small come into clear focus on mornings like this one," Lambert said. "I can identify with the tear in mom's eye and the lump in dad's throat ... I know how proud they are and what a privilege it's been to help you reach this day."

Compared with the billions of people on Earth who live in poverty, suffer from HIV/AIDS and are illiterate, Elon students are among the most privileged people on the face of the Earth, Lambert pointed out. And as such, students must ask themselves, "What am I going to do with the gift of an Elon education?"

In the middle of one Elon tradition, Lambert announced another tradition the class would now witness.

"You're going to hear a train go by," he said, "and I'm going to grab a drink of water. Justin, you want to grab some more photos?"

The moment of hilarity was only a slight break in the tenderness of his message that members of the Elon community are caring above all else.

"You will be changed in ways you can now not imagine," Lambert said.

Donna Van Bodegraven, associate professor of foreign languages, explained Elon's four pillars of honesty, integrity, responsibility and respect, and Chuck Griffith, father of 2010 graduate Katie Griffith, reflected on his time as an Elon parent. Everyone he has come in contact with simply loves Elon University, he said, and it's an institution where everyone has the ability to make a difference.

In his traditional message to the new class, Lambert said, "You will leave Elon some day, but Elon will never leave you."