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TUNNEL NOISE EFFECTS STUDENT RENTERS



Workers from Crowder Construction Company secure steel beams into the ground using compression machinery. Excavating the tunnel has been a noisy process that has resulted in three students who live close to the site being moved to temporary university housing.

Construction noise scheduled to quiet down next week

Anna Johnson
Senior Reporter

Students who live near the construction site of Elon's pedestrian underpass will only have to wake up to the sound of jackhammers for one more week. According to Brad Moore, associate director of planning, design and construction management, the work causing the loud noise is scheduled to cease by Oct. 16.

Moore said while the majority of the sound will stop after next week, there will still be some slight noise

because of the excavating of the tunnel, but not to the same extent as earlier in the year.

Last week, senior Alex Luxenburg, who lives across from the construction site at the intersection of South Trollinger Avenue and O'Kelly Avenue, sent an e-mail to Elon University President Leo Lambert regarding some issues with the construction.

"We mentioned three things that were a major concern," Luxenburg said. "And we requested to meet with him so

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Elon earns Phi Beta Kappa chapter after nine years of perseverance

Margeaux Corby
News Editor

It took the University of Mississippi a hundred years to get it. Elon got it in nine. Last Friday, the university finally received a Phi Beta Kappa chapter after a nearly decade-long effort, which came to an end last weekend at Phi Beta Kappa's 42nd Triennial Council in Austin, Texas.

Steven House, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said senior staff attending the council were cautiously optimistic when arriving in Austin, especially after so many people had tirelessly worked to provide the extensive data required in the application process.

"We were confident that we had addressed all of the questions presented by the Committee on Qualifications," House said. "But until we heard the speaker announce that the Phi Beta Kappa Society had voted to establish a new chapter at Elon, we were all a tad nervous."

Elon applied to Phi Beta Kappa in 2000 and 2003, but was denied membership both years. The university's 2006 application received approval along with Butler University, The College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's University and James Madison University. There are only 280 Phi Beta Kappa chapters nationwide.

The university has improved various campus programs in an effort to build up its application through the years, such as increasing library funding by almost 250 percent since its first application, instituting a foreign language requirement for incoming freshmen, increasing faculty hiring and putting more funding into honors programs and scholarships.

"Elon's journey toward Phi Beta Kappa has always been about the

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Struggling economy affects free, reduced lunch program

Caitlin O'Donnell
Reporter

As the economy falters and unemployment rises, the number of students who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program is increasing. Of the approximately 22,000 students enrolled in the 33 Alamance-Burlington schools, 45 percent qualified for the program.

Though various factors can affect the number of eligible students, the recent downturn in the economy and the subsequent job loss is perhaps the most significant.

"We have seen the closings of numerous plants and the transfer of textile mills overseas to countries such as China," said Sallie Ange, executive director of child nutrition for the Alamance Burlington

school system. "Our town relies heavily on these factories, and when they leave, it is a serious indicator of a problem."

Students whose families receive food stamps automatically qualify for the free or reduced lunch, and for others a separate application is available. This requires only the total income for the household and the signature of a parent or guardian. A new application is required each school year.

In many cases, the number of students who take advantage of the program is much greater in elementary schools, than in middle and high schools. Many high school students simply don't take the time to fill out the application, or use that of their younger siblings.

"Others are embarrassed by the fact that their families have a low income and don't want their friends and peers at

school to know," Ange said.

The free or reduced lunch program is federally-funded and entirely separate from the school system. With an \$11 million budget, it pays for necessary food, as well as employees' salaries and benefits.

"Our funding comes directly from the government," Ange said. "So the increased number of students relying on the program has caused no serious strain on schools' finances."

What the number does affect is the individual school's title under the No Child Left Behind Act.

"I use the free or reduced lunch count to determine a school's status as Title 1," Jean Maness, executive director of elementary education for the Alamance Burlington school system said.

At Title 1 schools, about 40 percent

of the students come from families who qualify as low-income. The schools receive funding from the government and must make adequate yearly progress on state testing. Originally enacted in 1965, the system aims to bridge the gap between at-risk and other students.

This year's application for the program was due Oct. 6, and the number of qualified students is not expected to decrease.

Elon Elementary cafeteria workers have witnessed a distinct change in those who now come through their lunch lines.

"We all have noticed an increase in reduced and free lunches for our students," said Nancy Miles, manager of the department. "And I know that the struggling economy is definitely one of the main causes."

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