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# THE PENDULUM

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## The Town Table provides new atmosphere

New restaurant to replace Brown and Co. location

Alexa Milan and Laura Smith  
Senior Reporters

Upon return to campus following Christmas break, many Elon University students were surprised to hear Brown and Co. had shut its doors for good.

On Dec. 31, the university announced Brown and Co. would be replaced with The Town Table, a new restaurant owned by Elon alumnus Chris Russell of B. Christopher's, B's Bistro and Benjamin's Seafood in Burlington.

According to Russell, The Town Table will feature French brasserie style cuisine as well as American tavern dishes. Some entrees include coco van, croque-monsieur, fish and chips and entrée salads.

Lunch prices will range from \$8-\$10 a person and dinner will range from \$14-\$18 a person, Russell said. Phoenix cash and meal dollars will both be accepted.

"I'm hoping that my background, culinary-wise, will bring in some more diversity of menu items than was here before," Russell said. "I think the quality of our kitchen ... will be received well."

The Town Table will feature a street café Parisian atmosphere, new aesthetics and weekly entertainment.

"It'll be a little bit airier," Russell said. "It felt like it was very dark (before). It'll be a happier space."

In addition to a Saturday brunch, the restaurant will have the first Friday musical entertainment. The first Friday night of each month, there will be live music from both regional and national acts, Russell said.

Russell is signed to a 10-year lease. He said he hopes to open The Town Table at the end of March and is currently searching for student employees.

"I'm very excited about this ... getting to know the Town of Elon, the students the faculty," Russell said. "I'm looking forward to being a member of the Elon community."

The building on Williamson Avenue where The Town Table will be located housed the original Brown and Co. for more than 20 years. Cantina Roble replaced it in 2002 before the new Brown and Co. opened in fall 2008.

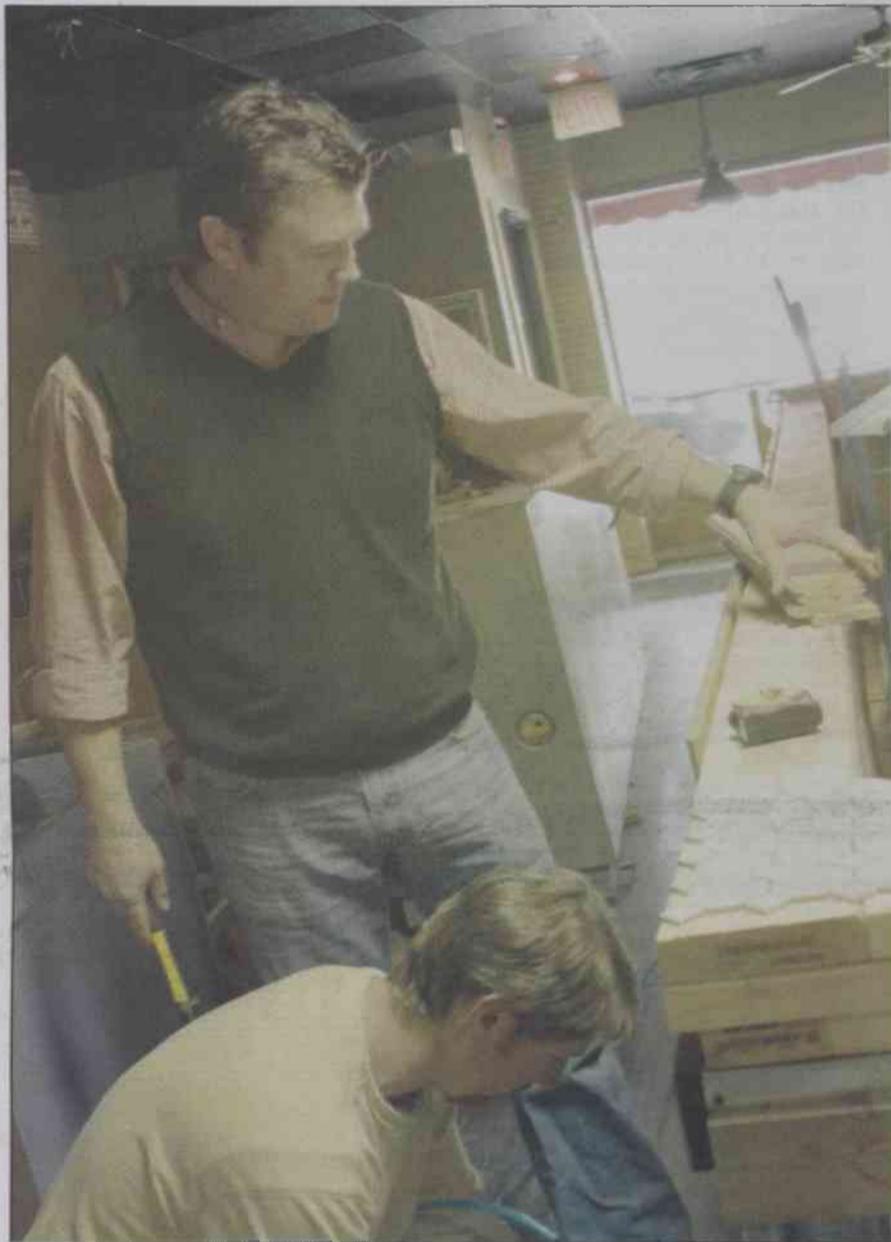
According to Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology, the decision to close Brown and Co. and open The Town Table stems from the university's strategic plan.

"The institution's new strategic plan has in it, as did the previous strategic plan, a goal to enrich the retail development of Elon for our students, faculty, staff and the townspeople," Whittington said.

The plan involves an increased presence of retail venues such as restaurants, drug stores and clothing stores not owned and operated by the university.

When the original Brown and Co. closed, Whittington said the university tried to sell the space to local vendors but no one bought it, so the university ultimately decided to purchase the property.

During the summer, the university met with local vendors and asked why they were not interested in opening



BRYCE LITTLE | Staff Photographer

Chris Russell, the owner of several Burlington restaurants including B. Christopher's, works on his latest dining endeavor, the renovation of Brown and Co. The Elon eatery will be named the Town Table and serve French inspired dishes.

venues in the Town of Elon. Whittington said most of the vendors were interested but didn't want the university to perceive them as competition.

"What we would rather do is have them provide all those things (like

restaurants and retail shops) instead of us having to provide it," Whittington said.

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## Former student vanishes in January, searches inconclusive

Jack Dodson  
News Editor

On Jan. 11, biology professor Matt Clark got a call every parent hopes to never receive. His former wife asked him if he was sitting down, and his only response was that he hoped it wasn't about their daughter, Jocelyn.

It was. Crystal Gathers, Jocelyn's mother, was calling to tell Clark that Jocelyn had gone out for a run that morning and never come back.

Jocelyn Clark is a 2007 graduate of Elon University and has lived in Durham until recently, when she moved with her mother to her grandparents' house in Pinebluff, N.C.

Jocelyn had left the house around 8:30 a.m. By the time it was noon, Gathers said, she went to look for Jocelyn on the route she normally ran, but she was not there. The next step was to file a report with the police.

Gathers said at first she hesitated in contacting the police because she didn't

want to make an issue if Jocelyn came home. After a while, Jocelyn was still missing, so Gathers filed the report.

At 6 p.m. that night, Clark received the news that his daughter was missing.

Police searched through the area that night with dogs. Computer records have been looked at, flyers have been passed out, and while the officers are looking into some leads, nothing has led to the safe return of Jocelyn.

According to the police officer on the case, Sgt. Chris Sanderson of the Pinebluff Police Department, the incident doesn't seem to be criminal in nature.

"She left on her own, that much we do know," Sanderson said.

Clark said he talks with Sanderson regularly about the case.

"(Sanderson) said to me on many occasions he did not think there was foul play," Clark said.

It seemed briefly the family would be able to put out a silver alert, but Gathers said because Jocelyn wasn't



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jocelyn Clark holds her Elon University diploma. Clark has been missing since January 11th, 2010.

"cognitively impaired" at the time of her disappearance, she wouldn't meet the qualifications for the program.

Because of previous medical

conditions, Jocelyn could have once met the qualifications for a silver alert, Gathers said, but not anymore. A silver alert in North Carolina is issued under the circumstance that someone of any age with dementia or other mental impairment goes missing.

Clark was told he is not able to sign a document allowing a silver alert to be put out because he hasn't seen his daughter in more than a year.

Instead, Clark has tried to rally family members to find Jocelyn. He's contacted his family and gotten all members involved in the search, trying to get the word out.

He said that it's a difficult situation, though, and not one he necessarily knows how to approach.

"This is not a book on my shelf as a professor I can pull down and follow the instructions," he said.

One family member, Annie Hinds,

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