

Campus bookstore, retail space to be added

DEVELOPMENT from PAGE 1

bookstore no later than June 15, 2011, which will give the bookstore 45 days to stock books and other items."

On Aug. 1, the new bookstore will have a "soft opening," according to McDonald, that will last until the last week of August.

"They want to have time to work out the kinks between Aug. 1 and when the freshmen come," he said. "When the full student body comes in the fall of 2011, the store will be up and running."

At the Oct. 14 meeting of the Media Board, House said the space now occupied by the bookstore will be used for a career center after the new building is completed.

"It is one of the programs that we really need to ramp-up, give more space to really put it in a key location," House said at the meeting. "Then we move the career center out, that gives us more space for a math and computing science department. So those are the dominoes that are going to happen."

McDonald said he views the construction of the new building as Phase I of a plan to make the

town more of a destination point for students as well as community members.

"I kind of look at this as the kickoff of what we hope will be a new look and offering for downtown Elon," he said.

At the Media Board meeting, House said one of the facets of Elon's 10-year strategic plan is the renovation of downtown Elon.

"As part of that strategic plan, we interviewed alumni, we interviewed faculty, we interviewed students and we interviewed people in the area," he said at the meeting. "And one very clear theme that came up was 'you have to do something about downtown Elon.'"

He said there is also the possibility of a three-story building where the College Street Tap House is currently located, though it is unclear when this plan will be finalized.

According to McDonald, he is also working with the Town of Elon on the project, who he described as very excited about the plan.

"The Town of Elon actually has a land use ordinance and



The proposed elevation of Williamson Avenue Building has been finalized with Elon University administration. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN McDONALD

that ordinance specifies various aspects of development," he said. "As a result, we are very much in partnership with the town and they will ultimately, through a technical review committee, review final construction plans based on the ordinances."

Town of Elon Manager Mike Dula said the town will only be responsible for ensuring the building fits zoning

requirements and won't be involved in determining what fills the building.

McDonald said he is under contract with the town regarding the height of the building and the "footprint" it will leave.

"I think they'll be pleased with the look of the building," he said. "I would describe it as a traditional design, but you will also see what I describe as more

urban features."

During the construction, McDonald said they will be mindful of other vendors and will work to accommodate the right flow of traffic.

"The university has a vacant lot caddy-corner to the lighthouse," he said. "We're going to use that for parking for construction vehicles and to house some of the infrastructure during construction."

Roof on new Loy Center building collapses because of wind, sets construction back slightly

CONSTRUCTION from PAGE 1

Alumni Gym

New seating and a new floor were included in the interior renovations of Alumni Gym and a new entrance has been constructed on the south side of the building, facing Haggard Avenue. Bromilow said as that entrance was being built, there were some changes in design that delayed the project.

Originally, there was supposed to be a planter in the center of the exterior patio, but that was dismantled to make more room for people to stand.

Last week, the Phoenix Athletics logo and the concrete lettering of "Alumni Gym" were hoisted into place.

Bromilow said that the goal to have the interior work done by Oct. 15 was achieved.

Colonnades C & D

Bromilow said that although students have not been inconvenienced much by the Loy Center or Alumni Gym construction, it is a different case behind Koury Business Center, where two new Colonnades dormitories are rapidly increasing in size.

"The tram road behind A and B has been for busses only," he said. "Now it's the construction road."

He added that this has presented a new safety concern, since students used to cut across the field diagonally, but the new shortest path is the tram road, and students aren't always paying attention to traffic moving around them.

"They're looking out for you, but you need to look out for them," said Bromilow.

Sophomore Laura Jones, a Danieley resident, said she is one of these students who often travels on the tram path.

"I don't really see the construction vehicles as a safety concern," she said. "But there is quite a bit of construction debris around the walking path sometimes."

Students who live in the current Colonnades can also hear noise from the construction site.

"I hear it a lot, but it doesn't bother me at all," said freshman Catherine Ayers.

Bromilow said the worst of the noise happened while there were relatively few people on campus.

"This summer," he said, "we had three drilling machines drilling from seven in the morning to eight at night."

According to Bromilow, there are 112 wells, each of them six inches in diameter and 440 feet deep. Pipes circle water through these wells, providing heat and cooling to the new buildings. He said they hope to have a roof on by the end of December, and then most of the work will be on the inside.

Alumni Field House

The Alumni Field House and Hendrickson Football Center broke ground in November of last year and is slated for completion this December, according to Brad Moore, associate director of planning, design and construction management.

He said the field house still requires some interior finishing, like carpeting and paint, and the exterior is still lacking some windows and doors as well as sidewalks and landscaping. He said no students or faculty will be permitted inside the building until a certificate of occupancy is obtained in late December.

"I think that it will be a significant addition to our campus," he said.

Finishing the Job

Bromilow said that although all projects are moving along on schedule, weather has been a factor as construction continues. Although North Carolina experienced a very hot and dry summer, the fall has had plenty of heavy rains. He said rain may dry up around campus a few hours after the last drops have fallen, but it can turn a construction site into a swamp for several days.

News editors Jack Dodson and Caitlin O'Donnell also contributed to this report.



The construction site for the future Colonnades dorms. JULIA MURPHY | Staff Photographer

Board of trustees approves masters in science for physician's assistant program

Jack Dodson
News Editor

A master of science program in physician's assistant studies was approved by Elon University's Board of Trustees during the Oct. 22-Oct. 23 meetings, making it the sixth graduate program at the school looking to start as early as fall 2012 or January 2013.

Since fall 2008, Elon University officials have been looking into creating the program, but it needed to determine its feasibility and a location on campus. Administrators have been working in the last few months to find funding for the program, according to a press release from the

University.

A feasibility committee was made up of 12 members, according to the press release, and found the idea for the graduate program to be a good one because of an increase in physicians assistant jobs available in North Carolina during the next several years.

"There aren't enough physical therapists to meet all the needs of people who need therapy," said Elizabeth Rogers, assistant dean of the doctorate of physical therapy program in a former interview.

The program will require about 28 months of study for each graduating class and is part of a larger move on the part of science graduate

programs. The Doctor of Physical Therapy program will be moving from the first floor of the McMichael Science Building to a building on Haggard Avenue formerly operated by Smithfield Foods, while undergraduate sciences will take over that floor. The same building is being looked at to house the physician's assistant graduate program.

Each class will enroll about 36 students, and the program will require about six faculty members to start out, as well as a director, a clinical director, a medical director and other staff members. Elon's program will require about 17,000 square feet of space, including a human anatomy lab.