

Elon expands Village Project, Kernodle Center to downtown Burlington

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Elon University extended its reach into downtown Burlington with the purchase of a building at 217 E. Davis St. The building will undergo slight renovations to create office space for the Village Project and the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement's community outreach efforts.

The Village Project, an initiative headed by Jean Rattigan-Rohr, associate professor of education, began in 2007 to help children in the Burlington area improve their reading skills. The program pairs education majors with local students in kindergarten to fifth grade. For six weeks during the second half of each semester, about 50 Elon students meet with local children and their parents in the May Memorial Library each Wednesday night. But the library is small, and the program is growing to include tutoring in science, as well, so additional space was needed.

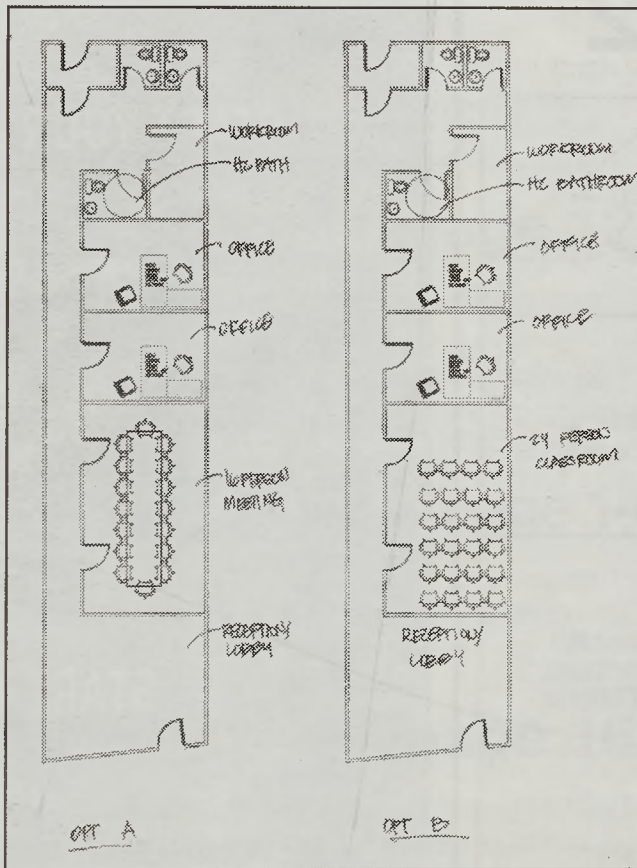
When Rohr expressed the need for additional space, the university assessed the available real estate in downtown Burlington and contacted local churches with the capacity to host the students. This year, tutoring for reading will remain in the May Memorial Library and science tutoring will be offered in the First Presbyterian Church at 508 W. Davis St. What used to be the offices

of Alamance and Alamance Woman magazines will provide additional office space for both the Village Project and the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement. The university finalized the sale last week.

Two of the building's four office spaces will most likely be combined to create a 16-person meeting room, but the university is also considering a 24-person classroom, Francis said. Rohr will occupy one of the remaining offices, and the Kernodle Center volunteers will occupy the other.

Mary Morrison, director of the Kernodle Center, said she is excited about the opening of the community outreach office.

"We're hoping that having a



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ELON UNIVERSITY
The downtown building will most likely be renovated to resemble option A, although option B remains under consideration.

downtown center will encourage faculty and staff to come down to the downtown area, utilize that space and familiarize themselves with the center of the city," she said. "We're going to focus on accommodating the needs of faculty, staff and students as they do more for the community."

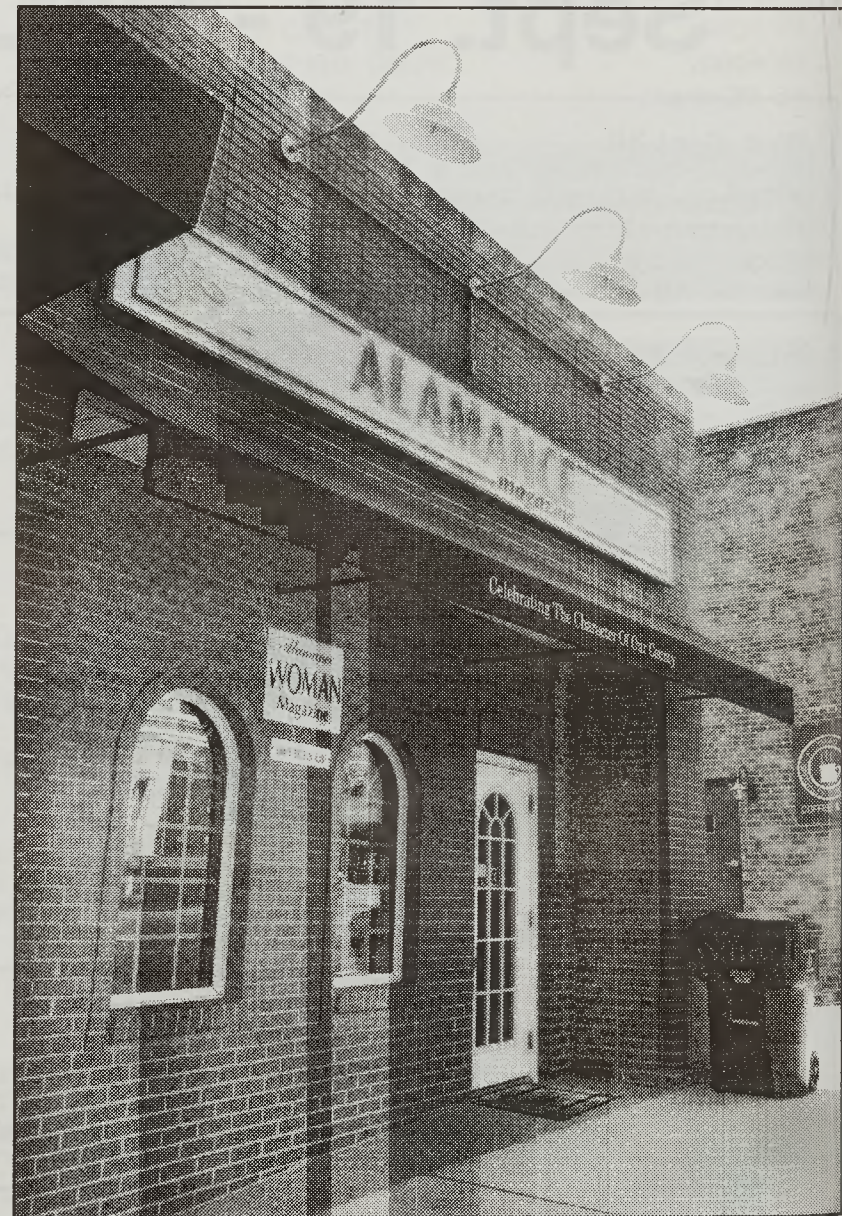


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
Elon finalized the purchase of 217 E. David St. last week to expand the Kernodle Center and the Village Project into the downtown Burlington area.

Loy Farm property will become Environmental Education Center

Ethan Smith
Senior Reporter

The Loy Farm property by the Magnolia Cemetery of Elon will be converted into a restored meadow this fall and will be renamed the Elon Environmental Education Center. A restored meadow means the property will be restored to its natural state.

The idea emerged after a number of feasibility studies were conducted regarding the use of the property, according to Tom Flood, assistant director of Physical Plant operations at Elon University.

"A few things gelled together at the right time, and the idea of

a restored meadow and educational center came about," Flood said.

President Leo Lambert suggested the meadow be used for education and research, according to Flood.

"The purpose of the center is to expand the environmental resources of the university for education and research," Flood said.

While the land will complement intellectual development, Steve Moore, a lecturer in the department of environmental studies who was instrumental in the decision regarding the land's use, said he envisions a significant future for the education center.

"The big dream is that we

evolve it into a synergy of studies on environmental issues, offering a wide variety of studies to students," Moore said. "We could create a sustainable living community with a net-zero carbon footprint building that produces more energy than it takes in and provides a place for students to live what they study."

Elon's academic expansion—the addition of multiple new buildings and properties — and the hiring of Moore directed the selection of the land's use. Agroecology is the science of ecology applied to the design, development and management of agriculture, a practice already implemented in Moore's classes.

Moore's classes are building a solar powered greenhouse on the property. Moore also conducts classes in the botanical garden to provide an engaged learning experience for his classes, he said.

Other parts of the property are being, or will be, used for garden areas, field plots, a compost facility, woodland areas and a native plants collection. The university will also make part of the field restored piedmont prairie grasses, reverting the field to its wild and natural state.

Only limited construction will begin this fall as a two-lane gravel road and parking lot will be located on the property to allow access.

The next step will be fencing in the property and restricting access so that more construction can take place, according to Flood.

Additionally, part of the center may become a photovoltaic farm to allow the generation of solar power, according to Flood. A photovoltaic farm uses solar panels to convert solar power into electricity.

The future plan for the Loy Farm represents the mission of the university, according to Flood. Considering Elon is a botanical garden and, as a result, committed to research, education and display, the transformation of the property advances these three missions of a botanical garden, Flood said.