

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 • VOLUME 40, EDITION 9

www.elonpendulum.com

Kernodle Center considers opening campus food pantry

Simone Jasper
Senior Reporter

For college students across the state of North Carolina, living off of ramen noodles isn't something to joke about. Many of them have trouble making ends meet, prompting food pantries to open at colleges and universities. Campus food pantries are on the rise nationwide, serving mainly students but also faculty and staff members.

Elon University could join the eight North Carolina universities that currently operate food pantries. The Kernodle Center for Service Learning has been contacted by outside food-assistance groups to discuss the possibility of opening a food pantry on campus.

Student groups usually run the food pantries, which rely on volunteers and donations. Most campus food pantry programs, including the one at nearby Alamance Community College, were started in recent years.

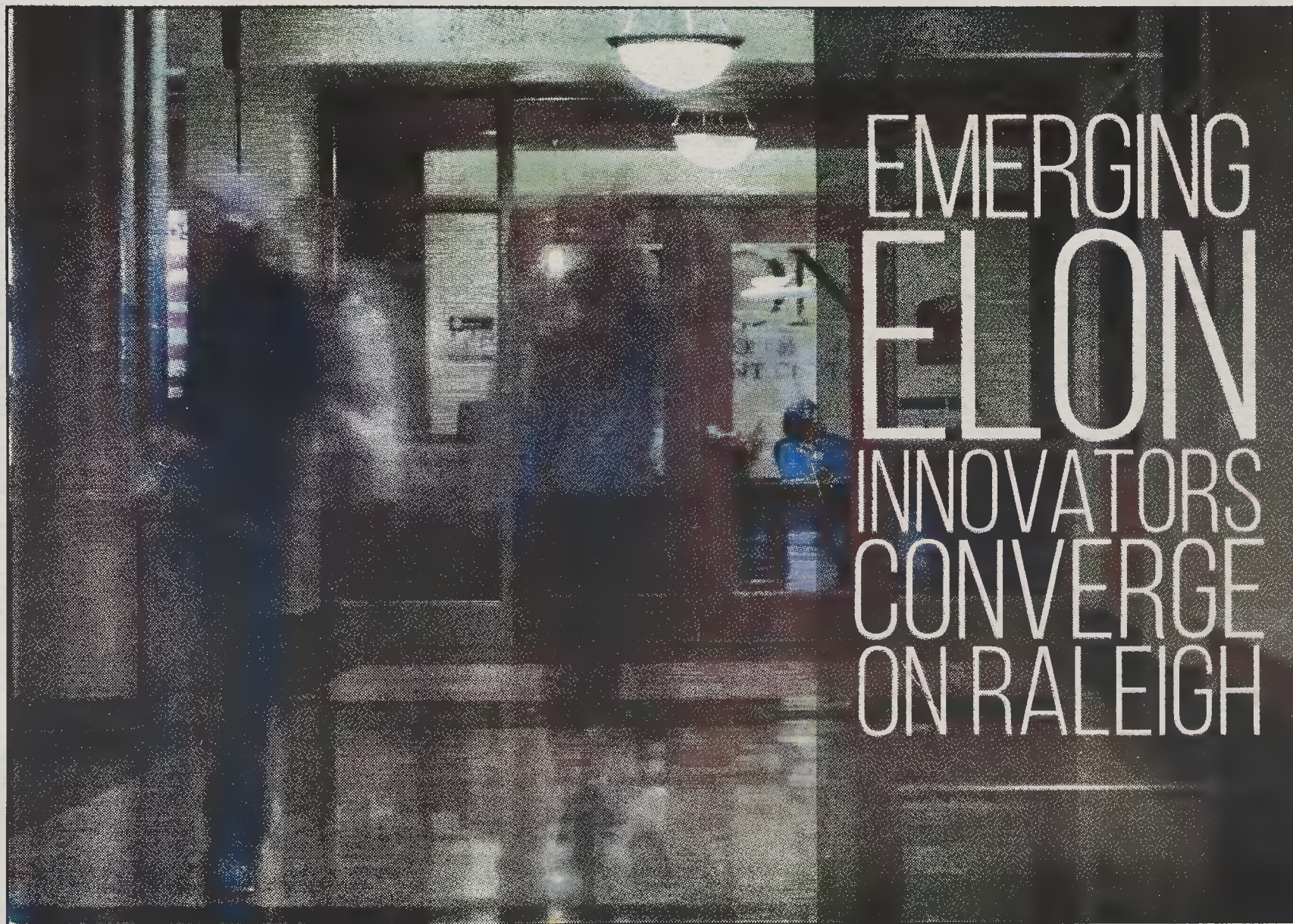
John Evans, academic support specialist and student activities director at Alamance Community College, said there was a demand for a student food pantry before one started in 2012. At the Alamance food pantry, students can receive up to six non-perishable items each week.

"We have students who may be in low-income situations, and we wanted them to receive help in a non-threatening way," Evans said. "A lot of our students don't have transportation. We wanted a resource that's convenient."

In Alamance County, a food pantry recently started at a high school.

Tiffanie King, culinary arts teacher at Career and Technical Education Center

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CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

From freshmen to seniors, many students who filter through the Student Professional Development Center are finding opportunities right down I-40 E in Raleigh.

Morgan Abate and Stephanie Lamm
Senior Reporter and Assistant News Editor

Though the majority of Elon University students are not from North Carolina, many are beginning to call the Triangle home by finding jobs and internships in Raleigh. Time magazine recently profiled Raleigh as one of the fastest-growing economies in the United States, and Forbes rated Raleigh the third-best city for businesses and careers.

In recent years, Raleigh has become a technology and innovation hub, especially in the biotech and health care industries,

by attracting companies like Red Hat, Allscripts and PNC Bank.

According to Time, companies are coming to Raleigh to collaborate with and recruit from the top universities in the surrounding area. Many businesses seek out young talent from North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

"This is a market of, by and for smart young professionals," said J. King White, an Elon graduate and business consultant based in Raleigh. "Companies are attracted to this economic and community dynamic because their workers increasingly

demand a culture where they can live, work and play in the same vicinity. It seems like every week Raleigh appears on some publication's Best Of list, and such acclaim is entirely valid."

According to Forbes, the cost of living in Raleigh is 4.7 percent above the national average, relatively low compared to the cost of living in other major cities like Baltimore, which is 13.4 percent above the average. Because of this, Forbes cites Raleigh as one of the best cities for new graduates to launch their careers.

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