

Faculty, engaged learning

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Editor-in-Chief

For a majority of the residents in the William R. Kenan Jr. Honors Pavilion, there was nothing unusual about a fire drill. As everyone began to leave the building, two of its residents stayed behind.

Sameule Pardini, assistant professor of Italian, was not worried about his class being interrupted — he wasn't teaching. He was worried about the alarm waking his seven-year-old son, Dante.

"There was this incredibly loud noise, like there was an attack on the Pentagon or something," Pardini said. "Everybody was running out of the building, and

Dante was sleeping. Thankfully, he was allowed to stay in bed."

For the past three years, Pardini, his wife Tara and their son have been living in the Honors Pavilion. Pardini is one of a handful of faculty members who live with their families in residence halls across campus as a part of the Residential Campus Initiative.

The Residential Campus Initiative is a multi-year initiative aimed at "reconnecting living on campus with the core values of the university," according to the Elon University website. One of the main goals of the initiative is to build enough housing on campus for 75 percent of the student body. Nearly \$100 million will be invested

into the initiative for facilities, staffing and programs.

"The purpose of it is to make the campus a space where students are all always learning and to make it intentional that students recognize they are always learning, not just in the classroom," said Alisha Bowers, residence life fellow for the Historic Neighborhood and Class of 2013 alumna. "When you have everyone living together like that it immediately heightens the intellectual climate."

A part of that initiative is to have faculty and staff living among students — a goal that has already begun to come to fruition. Bowers, who lives in West with her husband, is one of two residence fellows

who live on campus, in addition to the assistant directors of residence life who live in each of the seven neighborhoods.

"I think it's a real neat connection to have with students for them to be able to interact with me when I go to the gym or eat dinner," she said. "We're all living in the same environment together, so I think there's something to be said for that."

Vanessa Bravo, assistant professor of communications and adviser to the International Fellows, currently lives in the Isabella Cannon Pavilion with her husband, Mussa Idris, pre-doctoral fellow and instructor of anthropology. Bravo began living there in the fall.

"I was investing a lot of time at Elon, going to many of the speakers, films and concerts," she said. "I was here a lot and about to start advising the international students. When the university offered this opportunity to me I thought, 'This would allow me to be much more aware of what is happening on campus.'"

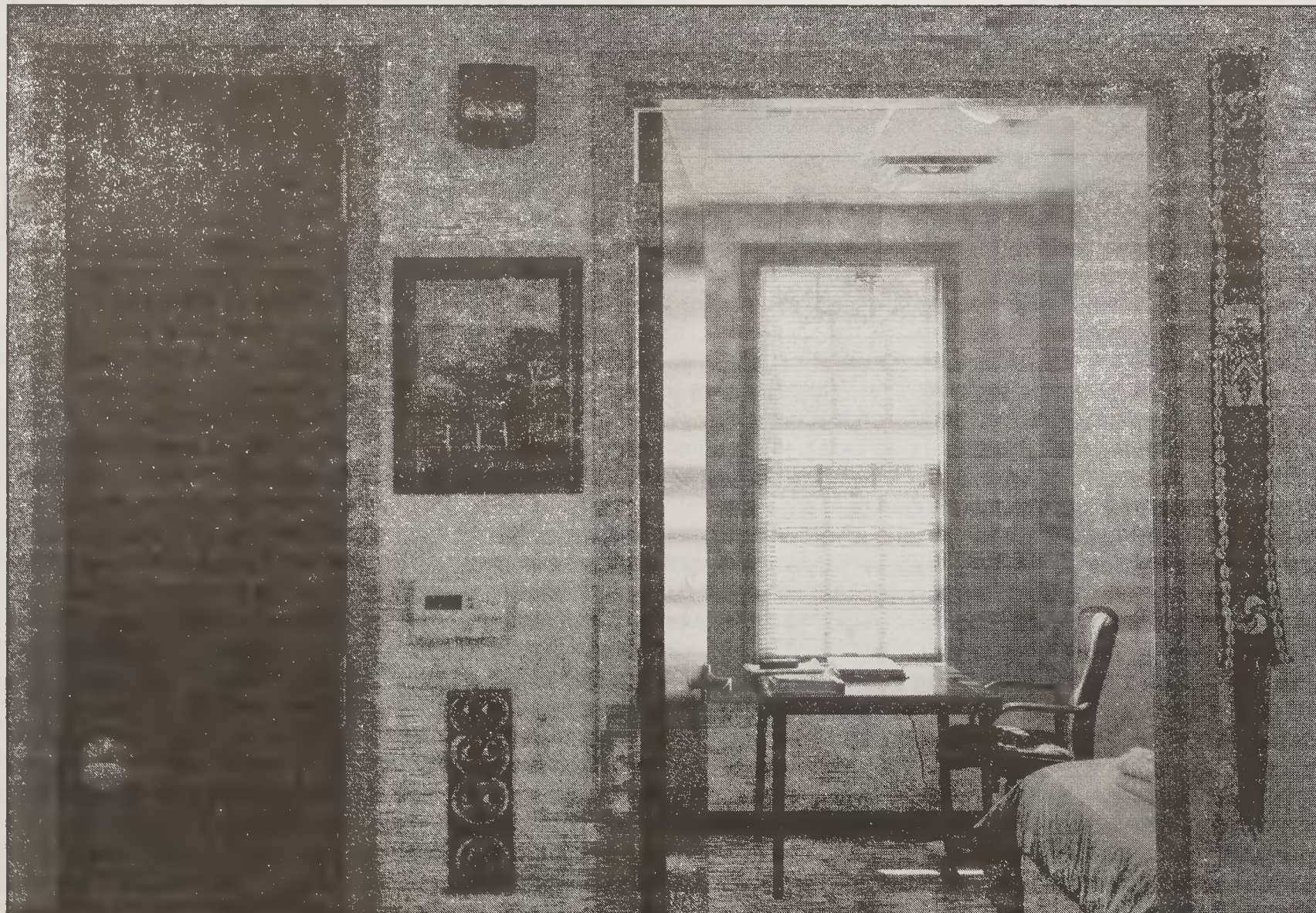
Though Elon is just starting to increase the number of faculty living on campus, the concept isn't new.

Outside the classroom

In the fall Bravo will be joining Amy Allocco, assistant professor and Distinguished Emerging Scholar in religious studies, in the Global Neighborhood. Allocco, who serves as faculty director for the Global Neighborhood, previously lived in the apartment where Bravo currently resides. Allocco's job entails facilitating the intellectual life of the Global Neighborhood, which currently houses 233 students.

"I'm thinking about overarching structure and ways of learning the lines of academic engagement outside of the classroom and developing students as global citizens," Allocco said.

Allocco is the first person to serve as a faculty director in residence on campus. The school will be hiring three more for the Colonnades, Danieley and Historic



Bravo moved into the Isabella Cannon Pavilion in the fall of 2013. She said she is rarely woken up by noise outside of her apartment.

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