

El Centro teaches basic computer skills to community

Brittany Smith
News Editor

El Centro and La Comunidad are working together in a community outreach program that teaches computer skills to the Hispanic community. The program began last fall when Randall Saenz, assistant director of the Spanish Center, realized what a need the community had and that the Spanish Center could fulfill that need.

The class meets on 6-7:30 pm, Monday and Wednesday nights in El Centro. Saenz teaches his students how to use basic computer programs like Windows, Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Access and basic Internet

Explorer functions.

While Saenz demonstrates basic computer skills, student volunteers watch the children of the parents in the class. Students like Colleen Clark and Jonathan Solano heard about the program through their classes like Conversational Spanish and through Elon Volunteers!

"It's a good way for the children to interact with the English language and for their parents to develop computer skills," said Solano.

Students in the outreach program find it incredibly helpful. They enjoy the one-on-one attention of a small class. Participants also find it more helpful that the class is taught in Spanish, their native language. "Before I was

computer illiterate, now I am learning so much," said Jose Perez. He finds that Saenz is very thorough in his explanations and is very helpful.

Catalina Perez said that she had taken other programs like the one at El Centro, but they were too crowded and too fast paced for her to keep up. She has never had a computer before, but the university is providing her with a great opportunity and she wants to keep learning and expanding her knowledge of computers.

Iliana Ramella, another student, also took another class like the one she is taking now. "I had a basic knowledge of computers but the teacher moved too fast and I was not keeping up very well. Now I am self confident about

computers and I feel like I am not asking stupid questions," she said.

Saenz hopes to continue his Spanish computer class through the summer. Eventually he hopes to get students involved in teaching the class when they are fluent in Spanish and knowledgeable about computers. "It is a great way to link Alamance's Hispanic community and the student community," Saenz said.

Contact Brittany Smith at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Local doctor regains license under specific conditions

Krista Naposki
News Editor

Elon doctor Meindert Albert Niemeyer regained his license after being acquitted on charges in an assault-and-battery lawsuit in October.

According to the Burlington Times-News, patient Crystal I. Gerner, "misinterpreted a physical exam, while Gerner's attorney said Niemeyer 'went too far' in touching her breasts and making personal comments."

The North Carolina Medical Board records state that Niemeyer surrendered his license in

March 2003, after allegations that he touched women patients inappropriately and made improper comments to them. On Aug. 25, 2003, Niemeyer was convicted of six counts of misdemeanor assault on a female and one count of misdemeanor false imprisonment, all involving patients.

He also sold JuicePlus+ to patients and encouraged them to distribute the product. JuicePlus+ is a controversial product; its health claims have been questioned by some health experts.

Director of Health Services Kitty Parrish said because Niemeyer is a general physician,

Elon students would normally not see him. She said that if the board found that Niemeyer was fit to have his license back, he learned his lesson.

The Burlington Times-News reported that Niemeyer must "continue counseling, provide quarterly reports of his progress, obey laws and regulations, have a chaperone present when he sees female patients and stop selling Juice Plus+ to patients."

Elon students leave campus for doctors only when specialists are needed. Parrish said, "This is something that happens very seldom in Burlington. Our specialists have a good rep-

utation and we have referred to them for a while now."

When students have physical examinations at the R.N. Health and Counseling Center, there is always another person of the same gender in the room if there may be any nudity. Shehe adds that "anytime you feel uncomfortable, you have the right to ask for another staff member to be in the room."

Contact Krista Naposki at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

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