

HUNGER

Volunteers, food banks work to alleviate hunger issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

themselves as living in underdeveloped countries, but this is right here in Greensboro, and it's one in four people."

Additionally, Greensboro and High Point ranked fourth nationally in number of people who can't afford food, according to the News and Record.

Though these numbers might be shocking to some, Katherine Shelton, the pantry director at the Servant Center's Grocery Assistance Program, thinks the numbers might be worse.

"(A quarter) seems low," Shelton said. "There are a lot of people they don't know about. There are a lot of people — immigrants, people who use church (food programs) — who aren't listed on formal paper."

Others aren't shocked either.

"Those of us that facilitate (free meals) have always been aware that many ... who come to eat dinner may have not had an opportunity to eat a full meal that day and may not eat again until the morning," said Saralee Gallien, an organizer for the Greensboro chapter of Food Not Bombs, in an email interview. "There's a certain level of normalcy that sets in when you hang out with folks every week who do not have a normative eating schedule or any stable ability to secure three meals a day."

Others have seen this problem growing.

"There's been a considerable increase of people coming (to Greensboro Urban Ministry)," said GUM Food Bank Office Manager Val Marshall. "Not just to the food bank, but to the clothing bank, our beds, and Pathways, which is apartments for families."

Others have seen this problem growing.

"There's been a considerable increase of people coming (to Greensboro Urban Ministry)," said GUM Food Bank Office Manager Val Marshall. "Not just to the food bank, but to the clothing bank, our beds, and Pathways, which is apartments for families."

Some note that the problem goes beyond hunger.

"People buy less nutrition and more bulk," said Shelton. "It fills people up, so they're not hungry, but they're not healthy."

"Every community deserves the right to healthy food — not just food, but healthy food," said Vergin. "But a burger costs \$1 and a head of lettuce costs \$3; people can't afford the healthy option."

According to Vergin, such issues arise from a food system based on feeding people as fast as possible and making money as fast as possible. Gallien blames systemic causes to a greater extent.

"FNB recognizes this struggle (with hunger) as conditions that are produced by capitalism and racism, which are two structural institutions this country was founded by and continues to operate through," Gallien said.

Regardless of what the causes might be, there are ways students can help.

"A lot of college students volunteer to work with us over here," Marshall said. "Students don't have a lot of money, so we'd much rather have their time."

Some volunteers mentioned the benefits of volunteering.

"I feel like I'm giving back and helping," said UNCG freshman and GUM volunteer Caitlin Pantas. "I didn't know about places like this before, so this has been a great learning experience."

"The people here are terrific," said first-year and GUM volunteer Eileen Martin. "I'm planning on continuing volunteering here even after my hours are done."

Shelton suggested multiple ways students can help other than volunteering.

"Support local pantries; do food drives — they're a tre-

mendous help; grow a sustainable garden and learn how to do it organically," Shelton said. "If we don't get (the younger) generation involved, what's going to happen?"

Vergin also mentioned similar ways to help. She also brought up self-education.

"(There should be) awareness — don't be ignorant," Vergin said. "People confuse (ignorance) with arrogance, but ignorance is just not knowing. Students here should allow themselves to know what's going on, and understand our place of privilege."

"Every community deserves the right to healthy food — not just food, but healthy food."

Senior Kelsey Vergin, intern at the Edible Schoolyard



First-year **Eileen Martin** volunteers at Greensboro Urban Ministry's food bank in downtown Greensboro.

Life Before Guilford: Kyle and Erin Dell

By Meg Holden
STAFF WRITER

College relationships all end at graduation. Once you get that diploma, the "college" part of the relationship is over, even if the "relationship" part stays strong — unless, that is, you stay in college.

Although they are no longer students, Kyle and Erin Dell have maintained their college relationship since they met at Kalamazoo College, in Kalamazoo, Mich. Kyle, an associate professor of political science and co-coordinator of the environmental studies program, and Erin, an assistant academic dean, shared the details of their romantic comedy before — and since — coming to Guilford.

Erin, a Quaker, chose Kalamazoo because of its study abroad program. An English and Spanish major, Erin said that when she thinks about college, she remembers always having a book in her hand.

According to Kyle, his family has connections to education as a profession.

"I always thought of (teaching) as the family business," Kyle said. "But the older I got, I thought about it, and I was like, 'I hate

the family business.' I wanted to go and be a big-time lawyer ... because I didn't want to be a poor teacher."

After a well-loved professor had a stroke and stopped teaching, however, Kyle reconsidered his priorities.

"It really influenced me to think about what was important and what I really respected about people," Kyle said. "And suddenly, the superficial parts of a lawyer's lifestyle that I thought I wanted

were not what I wanted anymore."

The romance began when Kyle transferred to Kalamazoo and the two were introduced by a mutual friend.

"I forget how I knew that (Kyle's) roommate, Chris, was living in the dorm —" Erin said.

"You were a social butterfly," Kyle said. "You were flitting around the dorm."

"That is not true," Erin said. "Don't say that, it makes me sound like I'm an airhead. Anyway, so

I walked in and I was talking to Chris, and Chris said, 'You need to meet my roommate Kyle.' And Kyle turned around and said, 'Hi, nice to meet you,' and I was starstruck."

The two were close friends throughout their sophomore year at Kalamazoo. Taking day trips, ringing the tower bells at Kalamazoo, and studying in Washington, D.C. together solidified Kyle and Erin's romance.

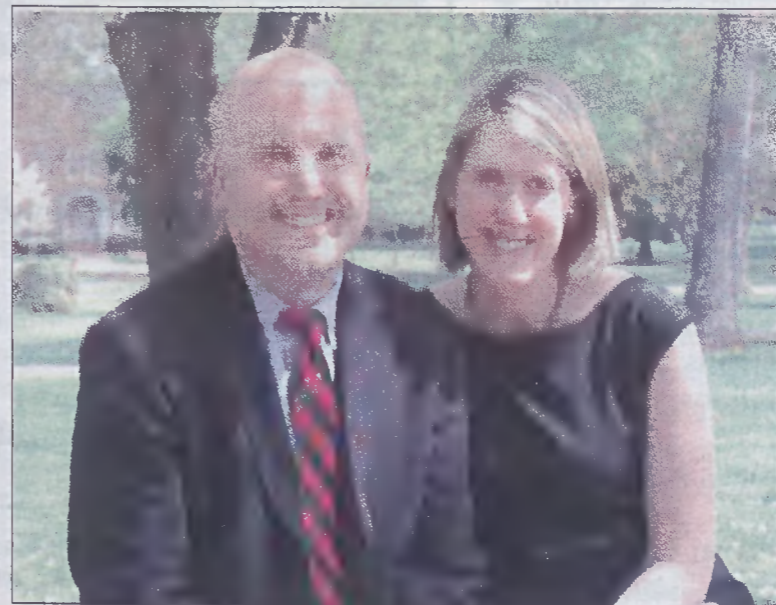
According to Kyle, while work-

ing on Capitol Hill, staffers in Kyle's office would sometimes call Erin the "pinkie commie girlfriend" while Erin's office referred to Kyle as the "fascist boyfriend." Political divides didn't stop Kyle and Erin from getting engaged their senior year at Kalamazoo and marrying a year later.

"Some people really give us a hard time that we got married so young," Erin said. "There's that 'how did you know that you wanted to be with someone when you were 19?' thing. My parents both said, 'you're kind of young to know what you want for the rest of your life.' And I said, 'I know what I want.'"

After college, the two moved to Boston for graduate school. Kyle studied at Boston College and Erin studied at Harvard University, where she also worked placing Fulbright students in graduate schools. The couple's two children, Sam and Phoebe, were born during the Dells' 10 years in Boston.

"And then we moved here, and it was very serendipitous," Erin said. "Kyle and I wanted to be in a place that reminded us of what we had (at Kalamazoo), and to be able to be on the other side of that and to give back is really meaningful."



(Left) **Kyle and Erin Dell** as students at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. (Right) Kyle, now associate professor of political science and co-coordinator of the environmental studies program at Guilford, and Erin, assistant academic dean, pose outside of Hege Library.