



## Horseback riding club to be formed at Elon

by Jennifer Tulloch  
Staff Writer

Elon College is well on its way to having a new team sport offered in its format, due to the combined efforts of devoted horse riders around campus. An organizational meeting for the future Elon College Equestrian Club has been held to discuss the requirements to all interested parties.

Potential club members will begin their trek towards competition by attending classes at nearby Springwood Farms, where they will polish their riding performance under the direction of coach Kim Nardelli. In addition to actual riding, participants will attend lectures by veterinarians and farriers about the care of horses, and still other classes on stable management and the care of equipment. The purpose of such instruction is to give members an overall view of horsemanship, a viewpoint vital to the survival of the club.

Elon will compete with some 10 North Carolina intercollegiate teams during both spring and fall. Judging is based on the ability of the rider, and this emphasis is maintained by having host teams. Using this method, the team hosting the competition will provide horses for the visiting team, and everyone will draw names for their mounts shortly before the event begins. "In this way," said organizer Mary Ellis, "we eliminate competition between the horses and concentrate on the rider's skills."

Ellis is very enthusiastic about the club's success, and hopes that the Equestrian Club will eventually become a team supported by the school. "We have to start as a club and prove to the school that we're serious," she said, "then eventually we hope to make riding a Physical Education (P.E.) credit." She also emphasizes the fact that the club is for anyone interested, "from beginners to the most advanced riders."

## Society fosters fellowship

by Vicky Jiggetts  
Staff Writer

Among the many organizations on campus, a recently formed group is the Elon College Newman Society. It is based on the Catholic faith and designed to bring college students together for a variety of religious activities, entertainment and social services.

Robert Morabito, a freshman majoring in English, is head coordinator of the organization. He says that the Newman Society is a community that was founded in the 1800s by a Catholic priest. "He was interested in college students and started training them to be better human beings and getting them involved in the Catholic faith. We have decided to incorporate that here."

Sister Laura Hardage of Burlington's Blessed Sacrament Church has had a group at Elon for four years called the Young Adult's Club. "She started with a little more than 20 people, and now we've grown to about 90 or 100. When we have Mass on Sundays, there are usually a lot of people present," Morabito says.

According to Morabito, they are renaming and reorganizing it, and the students are going to take charge. "Sister Laura will be our advisor and will work very closely with us," he says.

The Newman Society is a religious group that gets together to share their faith with one another. Morabito

says, "I believe the best way that can be done is through relationships."

He stresses that when people get together in the Newman Society, "the barriers break down." Morabito describes the atmosphere with great enthusiasm. "Everyone can say anything they want, to anybody. It's something magical, but I can't explain it because you really have to be there. When you can see the smile on people's faces as they come in, and everybody greets each other, it's just something that's really beautiful."

The Newman Society has visited many different places this year. They went to the beach, Pilot Mountain and Cedarock Park. Such activities were designed to get the freshmen more involved in the school and to meet other people.

During one of these encounters, everyone was given a card to write different characteristics about themselves, such as their three best qualities, their major, and what they like to do best. Everyone had to read and sign everyone's card.

"You were forced to know one another. I walked away with 18 new friends," Morabito says. When the group went to the beach, they got together with other schools, attended workshops, talked about different areas of faith and how



Robert Morabito

relationships should be.

The organization also participated in service activities. They sponsored the Crop Walk and helped with the Crop Fast. Presently, they are trying to get people involved with the Big Brother/Big Sister program and with visiting nursing homes.

Morabito explains that the Newman Society isn't limited to the Catholics. "I'd say that it is 60 percent Catholic faith. But the Catholic faith means universal, which incorporates everything, and all faiths are invited to join. Most people think that it is a specific religion, but it isn't. We're open to everybody."

The Newman Society meets every Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Large Lounge of Long Student Center to hold liturgy. Afterwards, refreshments are served, and everyone socializes.



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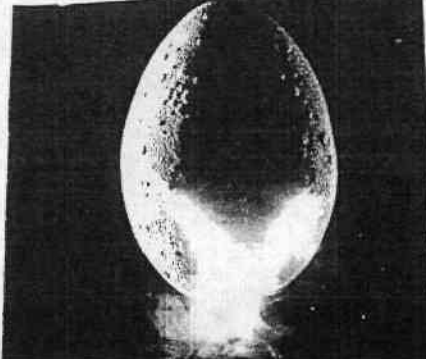
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