

# The Pendulum

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Serving the Elon College community

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## Home for the Holidays

### For Habitat, service is the gift of giving

By Mindy Schneeberger  
The Pendulum

In a day and age when everybody seems to be out for himself, a group of Elon students has made a priority out of helping others.

The campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity has been busy constructing a house, hoping to finish its project in time for the holidays. The home will be owned by Tim and Cathy Delk, who have been helping the volunteers with the project.

The home was donated by a Byrd Food Store in Graham. The store was expanding and needed the space occupied by two homes. These houses were donated to the Alamance County affiliate of Habitat. The college chapter in turn undertook the renovation of one of the homes.

Throughout the semester, volunteers from campus have been dedicating their Saturday mornings to the house, which is now located on Seventh Street in Burlington. Chapter president John Barnhill says the group will dedicate the house on Sunday, December 10 -- making it a "Home for the Holidays."

Barnhill, who was introduced to Habitat for Humanity through a church group in his hometown of Lexington, Massachusetts, is impressed with the efforts of his group. The campus chapter received its charter last spring. Since then, it has acquired a mailing list of around 200 names, Barnhill says.

Of that group, around 30 volunteers gather every Saturday at 9 a.m. to put in a



photo by Adriane Wynns

Gregg Cuesta and Calvin Smith repair the fascia board on the house Elon's chapter of Habitat for Humanity is rebuilding as a "Home for the Holidays."

morning of work. "That's hard to do, and for us to do it faithfully is very good," Barnhill says.

Members do not limit their efforts to Saturdays, however. They are busy throughout the week, raising money for the project through a variety of fundraisers. Habitat sold "Gobble Grams" before Thanksgiving and also earns money through babysitting and yardwork jobs. Donations from various groups, including the Black Cultural Society and Gospel Choir, have also increased the budget. Habitat is trying to raise at least \$5,000 for their building efforts.

"You can't have a business mind and work with Habitat," says Barnhill, who explains that the group makes a practice of buying supplies, using them, raising money, buying more supplies, and so on.

The campus chapter has been getting much support from the Alamance County branch of the organization. Barnhill says many of the members of that chapter have building experience. The

county and campus chapters compliment one another's efforts. "You can have all the experience in the world, but you can't build a house alone," the president says.

Habitat International has a master building plan for homes, and the buildings are inspected for safety. Habitat concentrates upon building the actual structure, but outside help is needed for plumbing and electrical work. Barnhill says much of this work is completed by professionals who volunteer their time and expertise.

The group is nearing its goal of finishing the Delk house before the end of the semester. Barnhill says his team needs to finish laying vinyl siding, painting parts of the interior and laying down the rug. Despite the heavy workload student volunteers will have within the next week, Barnhill feels sure his group will complete the project.

The efforts have not gone unnoticed. Local media have given coverage to Habitat's project, and Barnhill expects to

greet the press at the December 10 presentation.

In its short existence, the Elon chapter has also been recognized by Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and Jimmy Carter. "That was quite an honor," Barnhill said. "Who could give you more publicity than a former president?" The chapter president says the guests gave the group a boost and were given souvenir chapter T-shirts for their visits.

Barnhill is planning the group's next activity. Once the Delk house is finished, Habitat will await another project. "We are waiting to get some land in the Elon College community to start building a house that we can get to easily," says Barnhill, who hopes to secure the land by next fall.

Meanwhile, the chapter president is simply encouraging the efforts of the students, faculty and staff who have chosen to dedicate their time and manpower to Habitat. "Nobody's out there trying to win a gold badge," Barnhill says. "They're just doing it because they want to help."

## New group promotes recycling

By Kelly Potter  
The Pendulum

A group of Elon students has come together to express an interest in environmental awareness. The school's rapidly-growing environmental group began as a result of the Fall EarthWatch symposium.

Members Kati Mafko and Lee Tupling were aware of the large number of individual participants and wanted to create a group effort to support environmental stability.

As of now, the group's main purpose is to generate a widespread campus interest in recycling. They are trying to establish a program that will include recycling bins located around campus so students can conveniently deposit their materials.

These items would then be transferred to the abandoned Winn Dixie on Haggard Ave., behind Pizza Hut. The site, recently declared by Robert Bracken, Director of Recycling in Alamance County, is close enough for both the Elon College student and faculty population and the entire town of Elon College community. Bracken said the site should be ready for use within the next few weeks, but he is awaiting permission from the property owner.

Although it does not take much to save a can, collect newspapers and save computer paper, there is still a struggle for participants.

Mafko feels there is a strong interest, but one that will be based on faith. "There needs to be a want and desire to make it work," she said.

According to a guide to waste reduction by the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, each American throws away 580 pounds of paper a year. Not only newspaper, but ledger paper, computer paper, brown sacks and cardboard are recyclable.