

# Ambassadors rub elbows with Elon's visitors

**Michelle Cater**  
Staff Reporter

Fourteen Elon College students were chosen as college ambassadors to represent the college and mingle with visitors.

The purpose of the first college ambassador program is to represent the student body and assist in such programs as Family Weekend and Homecoming, as well as give tours of the college to donors, parents, visitors, alumni and dignitaries.

The college ambassadors selected are Ashley Allen, Staci Ballengee, Shana Carroll, Joy Crawford, Susan Higgins, Hunter

Johnston, Stacie Kleinman, Edmund Knott, John Myers, Jennifer Pickett, Tisha Shaffer, Molly Smith, Kelly Taylor and Sarah Watson.

There were 60 nominees.

They were chosen by Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Joanne Soliday, assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Laura Lewis and the staff of the Institutional Advancement Department.

"I think it's a really good program for the school because it's a good contact between the students and the friends and family of the college," Molly Smith said. She added that she considered it an honor to be chosen and to be involved in the beginning of the

program.

Jennifer Pickett wanted to be a college ambassador so she could meet people on the campus and help greet visitors. "I wanted to be an ambassador because as a senior it is kind of my way of giving back to Elon," Pickett said.

The ambassadors were nominated by the faculty and were required to fill out an application, said Amanda Harless, dean of students for special programs and the director of the student ambassador program.

Harless said the committee was looking for students that had an enthusiasm for Elon and a willingness to share the Elon experi-

ence with others.

The ambassadors were announced Sept. 19 and were quickly trained to work during Family Weekend. During the weekend, the ambassadors gave directions and helped at all of the events.

"We would not have had as a successful Family Weekend without the college ambassadors....I think they did extremely well with only a short amount of time to train," Harless said.

The college ambassadors will also be working at Homecoming Nov. 11, as well as four other events yet to be decided on.

# Students interview final two candidates for security position

**Jeff Wirick**  
Staff Reporter

Six Elon College students interviewed the two final candidates for the vacant position of director of Security and Safety and both believe students should participate in a security program.

The candidates for the position are John J. Hackett Jr. director of Public Safety at Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. and Sylvia P. Chilcott, director of Public Safety at Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla.

Chilcott and Hackett are among the four finalists from a pool of more than 100 applicants after Terry Creech vacated the position in August.

John Garner, director of pub-

lic safety at the University of Portland was interviewed Sept. 15. Norman Wallace, assistant director of public safety at Villanova University was interviewed Sept. 21.

A committee headed by Vice President of Business and Finance Gerald Whittington will collect recommendations from the students at the interviews and make a decision at a later date.

Hackett, who was interviewed Sept. 27, said he felt it would be a good challenge to work with a security department that could possibly change to law enforcement status.

"A lot of people look at a college campus and think 'It's nice until five o'clock'. However, this is a 24-hour job, and if you take it

with a nine to five expectation, you're not doing anyone the service that you are supposed to provide," Hackett said.

Hackett recently completed his master's degree in science and total quality management last year from Anna Maria College in Massachusetts.

He said he has mixed emotions about a commissioned police force at Elon.

"I believe that for professional law enforcement response, Elon can handle it, but I'm not 100 percent sure that bringing a weapon into a calm situation is necessary," Hackett said.

He is in favor of student participation in the security department. "As long as they are trained and comfortable in the situation

that they are in," Hackett said.

The only female finalist Chilcott, was interviewed Friday. She said one of the reasons she applied for the job is to return to her home state of North Carolina.

Chilcott said her career objective is to find a public law enforcement position with an accredited institution of higher learning.

Before her current job, Chilcott was director of Safety and Security at Catawba College, where she also earned her bachelor of arts in sociology. Chilcott said she is looking for a place to pursue her master's degree.

Chilcott has never been involved with a college campus that has law enforcement status, but said the change to this type of force would work for Elon.

"Done properly, with professionally trained individuals, you can have a service-oriented group of armed, security members representing Elon College," Chilcott said. She stressed that "Elon must create a place in which students can live, work, and learn in a safe and secure environment."

Like Hackett, Chilcott also encourages student participation. "If I could contribute to their education by offering them a job, I will," she said.

"Students are not going to respect a safety and security department that doesn't show respect to them," Chilcott said. "And the only way to show students respect is to give them a chance to work with us."

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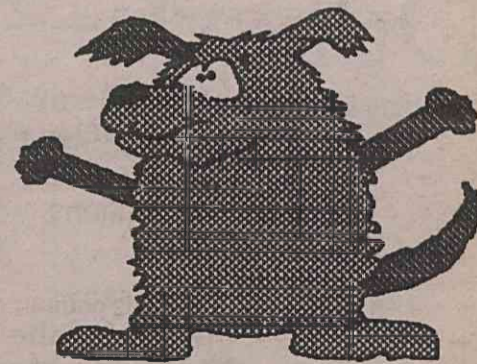
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