

# Rushees await bids from Greek organizations: What are the good and bad points of Greek Life?

Carolyn Lampila  
Staff Reporter

Throughout this week, many nervous but excited women can be seen walking around Elon in suits and skirts as they complete the long, stressful process of rushing.

The past week has been filled with parties, introductions, rounds and countless hours of voting by the sororities themselves.

The true test of their commitment will be on Saturday, Valentine's Day, when they will be in their rooms anticipating a phone call to see if they got in the sorority of their choice rather than from their Valentine Day sweetheart.

Men are also rushing at this time, a process that doesn't seem as stressful, since they have the chance

to rush in the fall.

Greek life and the process of rushing brings around many different views from students at Elon.

One common excuse for not joining a Greek organization is money as some students said that joining a sorority or fraternity is similar to buying your friends.

The average cost to belong to a sorority at Elon is between \$300 and \$500 which isn't expensive when compared to other colleges, said Naomi Bleecher, Panhellenic rush chair.

Bleecher said she believes there are many advantages of being involved with Panhellenic and students will get their money's worth with the acquirement of leadership skills, connections and meeting many different people.

Another problem seen with

rushing, especially in the fraternities, is hazing.

Scott Nelson, assistant dean of students, said hazing does not seem to be a problem at Elon as there were only a few cases since he has been here, none of which were severe.

"Amanda Harless (director of greek life) has done a good job in preventing serious cases of hazing," Nelson said.

Bleecher also believes that a problem with hazing does not exist at Elon.

"Every time anything goes wrong, it's always pinpointed against Greeks," Bleecher said.

Nelson said he believes leadership activities, organizational skills, opportunities for scholarships as well as connections and the chance to meet many different

people are just a few of the advantages of being a part of Greek Life.

"There's a lot more to it than 'buying your friends'," Nelson added.

Nelson, who in his college years was the president of a fraternity (not Elon related), admitted that he had a great experience.

Former Lambda Chi President Zach Poole said being in a fraternity allows for more opportunities to be involved in group activities.

"It allows you to do things that you couldn't do on your own," he said.

Poole says he doesn't see anything negative about being in a fraternity.

"I'm completely happy about it," Poole said.

Senior Kelli Palmer, former president of Alpha Kappa Alpha,

has also been very happy with her experience in a sorority.

"I've had a lot of opportunities to serve," Palmer said.

"I have gained valuable friendships and connections with the community," she added.

She said she feels that Alpha Kappa Alpha has been "a family away from home."

In addition to the leadership skills, service opportunities and friendships which Palmer gained, she was awarded a \$500 undergraduate scholarship from Order of Omega, a Greek honor society.

Nelson believes that this is an average year for the number of students that are rushing and estimates that by the end of the rush process around 33% of Elon's campus will be Greek.

## Elon Alumnus running for United States Senator in fall

Lauren Bigge  
Staff Writer

Michael Robinson, a graduate of the Class of 1981, said that although he doesn't have the money and political connections, formally announced his campaign for U.S. Senate during a press conference last month at Piedmont Triad International Airport.

Robinson is seeking the Democratic nomination in order to challenge U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., in November.

"I'm running to give a place to the non-lawyer, the non-millionaire," he said. "I believe that many politicians get elected and then spend the next term paying off special interests that they owe and trying to get re-elected for the next term. Because I will accept no large donations, I will not owe anyone except the people of North Carolina, and because I will not stand for re-election, I will spend the entire term working for you. I believe that career politicians and special interests have gone too far...but that common man still has a place in government," he added.

Robinson spent his time at Elon working to improve life for the community here as well. "Radar" Robinson (a nickname he was given for the apparent resemblance to the actor who played the character of Radar on M\*A\*S\*H) was active in

several community service projects with his fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon. He was also Vice President of the Student Union Board, served terms as Social Chairman and President of his fraternity, active in several drama productions, involved with WSOE in its early years, played Lacrosse, a contributing writer for *The Pendulum*, and a two-year member of the Religious Life Committee.

Robinson is now a 39-year-old businessman who runs his own management firm, Triad Training

and Consulting. Robinson said he knows what it's like to make a living as an ordinary American, driving two cars with more than 100,000 miles while trying to save money for a child's college education.

He acknowledges that his campaign approach will limit his options financially.

Robinson simply wants to work for the people of North Carolina.

"I'm on a great adventure," he said.

**Attention Honda and Acura Owners**  
There's a new Honda repair center in town.  
**Total Honda Service**



- Over 20 years experience
- Awarded Top tech by Honda in 90,92,93,94,95 & 96

**Special Oil change and filter \$9.95 plus tax**

523 Chapel Hill Road • Burlington • 336-229-9915

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 5:30

Between 8:30 and 2:30 transportation will be available

### SPRING BREAK BAHAMAS PARTY CRUISE!

6 Days \$279! Includes meals, parties and taxes.

Great beaches and nightlife. Leaves from South Fl.

[springbreaktravel.com](http://springbreaktravel.com)

1-800-678-6386

### College Chapel

FRIDAYS \* 9<sup>:20</sup>AM - 9<sup>:50</sup>AM

WHITLEY AUDITORIUM



There are seven sins:

W<sup>E</sup>ALTH without work,  
P<sup>L</sup>EASURE without conscience,  
R<sup>N</sup>OWLEDGE without character,  
C<sup>O</sup>MMERCE without morality,  
S<sup>C</sup>IENCE without humanity,  
W<sup>O</sup>RSHIP without sacrifice and  
P<sup>O</sup>LITICS without principle.

MHATMA GANDHI

Theme for Spring Semester '98