

# Grahaeme Hesp right at home with students, Greek Life

**Kelly Allen**  
Contributing Reporter

*I recently had the pleasure to sit down with one of Elon's newest and most interesting new staff members, Grahaeme Hesp. He is the new director of Greek Life and here is what he had to say about Greeks and Elon in general.*

**Kelly Allen:** Where are you from, originally, with that lovely accent?

**Grahaeme Hesp:** Originally I come from a town called Newcastle. It's on the northeast coast of England, where they filmed Braveheart; it was just on last weekend. It's basically right there; with all those hills and greenery and this kind of thing. And I come to Elon from Southern Illinois University, the Edwardsville campus; it's about 20 minutes to the east of St. Louis.

**KA:** What brings you to Elon? What made you decide to come down here?

**GH:** I was doing the job search in January, February, March kind of thing. I went to the American College Personnel Association annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. And one of the interviews I had there was for Elon. I had an interview with Scott Nelson and then a second interview with Dr. Jack-

son. We went out to dinner Monday evening. The next thing I know I got a phone call inviting me onto campus and the campus visit was everything that basically Dean Nelson and Dr. Jackson had said. I was very impressed with everything I saw; I had four other on-campus interviews. Elon was always my number one choice. They actually offered me the position there and then during the interviews.

**KA:** What do you hope to bring to Greek Life here at Elon?

**GH:** I think the major thing, and one thing I am saying to all the chapters, is I am going to their chapter meetings and addressing the President's Council, this sort of thing, is that nothing jumps out at me saying that this has to stop, this has to change, this is wrong, this is bad. There are certainly many areas I think we are able to be so much greater at, far more successful.

**KA:** What is your first impression of Elon after your first few months here?

**GH:** I think it was absolutely wonderful: the fact I came in Memorial Weekend and was able to get settled into the office, lived in the AKA house, was right here on campus, found my house, got moved, got settled in there,

got some items lined up for the semester. And then a week, two weeks before school started basically turned around and said "Okay, I'm ready! Everyone can come back now!" The strangest thing for me over the summer was the fact that really there aren't any students around. Coming from a state institution there is very little difference between July and the middle of March, or whatever. And the fact that we had something like 40 students on campus was like a major culture shock for me.

So it was nice to see Move-In Day and everyone come back. A lot of people had been in touch with me via email or phone, this sort of thing. So being able to start to put faces to names and positions, that was good. Everyone has been extremely open and welcoming from the other staff, faculty, down to the chapter presidents, the council officers and even just the members at large. It's been a real positive experience.

**KA:** What is your favorite part of Elon?

**GH:** Ohhh. I think there is an obvious bias, I think my favorite area has to be the Loy Center, the Greek Houses. One, because, that's where I lived for three months. But I think the other thing as well, is while I was living



**Grahaeme Hesp**

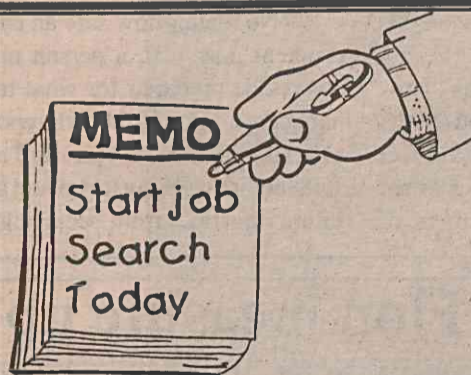
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there just being able to sit out on the deck and watch people go by. Sit out on the front at night. Especially as the summer was coming to an end and some of the House Managers or athletes were moving back in early, and

there were two or three people in the area. I thought that was a really relaxing area. And now I've been down there at three o'clock in the afternoon and two o'clock in the morning and there's always something happening down there.

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