

Elon Volunteers! offers students, faculty numerous opportunities to serve

Lisa McChristian
The Pendulum

When students first visit Elon College, it isn't long before they are introduced to Elon Volunteers! Better known as EV!, the organization makes community service experiences available to students and faculty and is one of the campus' most prized groups.

Located in the John R. Kernodle, Jr. Center for Service Learning, EV! is one of the campus' largest organizations.

The group's goal is to provide all members of the Elon College campus the opportunity to develop an ethic of service by connecting campus and community through service experiences.

Last year, 65 percent of the student body (2,367 students) participated in service activities

through the organization.

EV! is organized in four sections: Service programs, service organizations, service events and communications.

EV! Has contact with over 50

Elon Volunteers!

agencies in the community. Several groups that EV works with on a

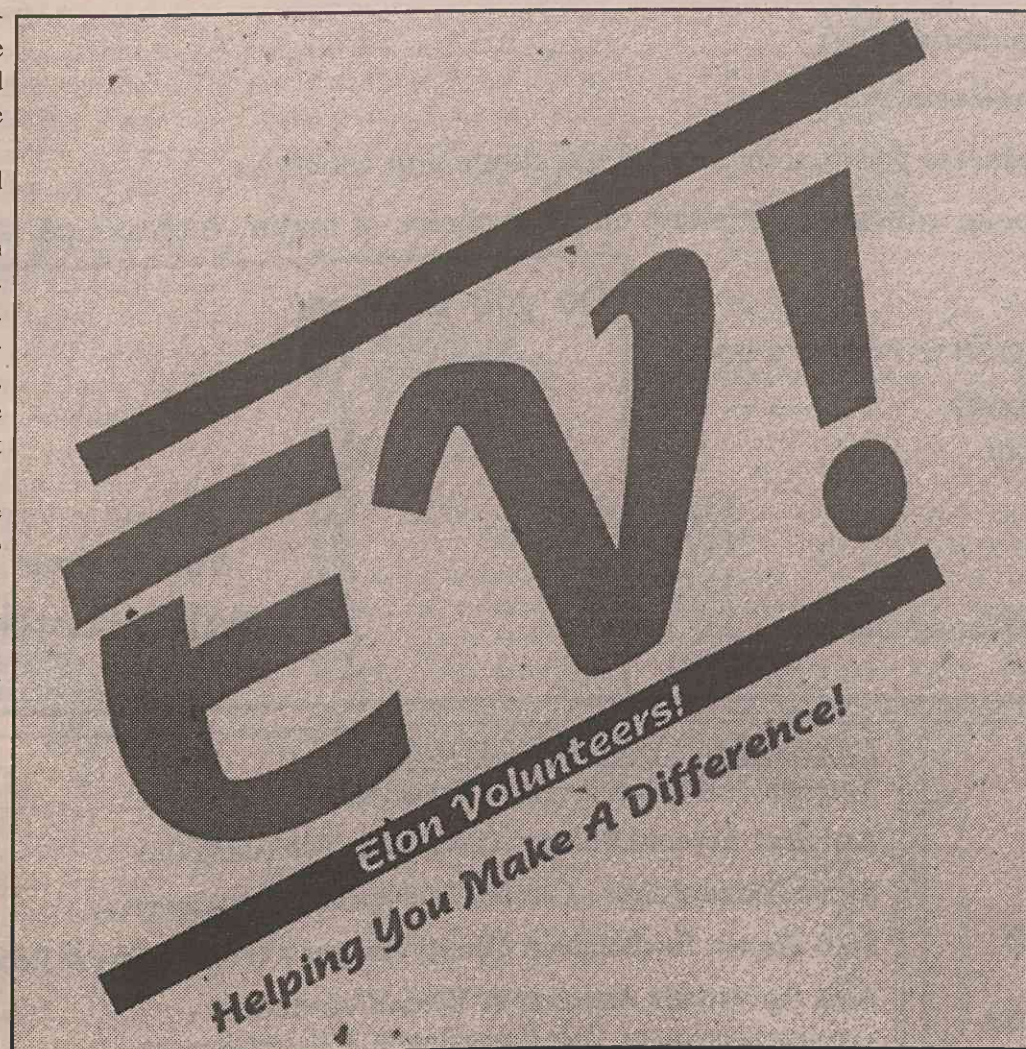
year-long basis are: Adopt-a-Grandparent, Boys and Girls Club, Crossroads, Elon Cares, Mis Amigos, Operation Toy Box, The ARC, Family Abuse Services and Friends of Youth.

Due to the abundance of opportunities, EV! can place students on an individual basis according to their specific interests or the can arrange activities for campus groups.

Nine on-campus service organizations work through the EV! office. They are Alpha Phi Omega, Epsilon Sigma Alpha, BACCHUS, Circle K, Habitat for Humanity, One in Three, Safe Rides, S.C.A.L.E, and the Sierra Club.

Throughout the year the office plans major one-time service events. This year's blood drive with the American Red Cross was extremely successful. Elon exceeded the set Red Cross goal with more than 178 student donors. Other events include Festival of the Oaks, Hillcrest Carnival, March of Dimes Walk, Special Olympics the Great Strides Walk. Hunger Awareness Week will take place in mid-November along with Make-a-Difference Day.

For more information call ext. 2102 or email elonvols@elon.edu.



Alpha Phi Omega: Turning a college experience into a lifetime commitment

Kate Botty
The Pendulum

Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed national service organization with a chapter on campus has perhaps helped Elon College earn a spot in "The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development."

Released Friday, Oct. 22, Elon has been named one of the top 100 character developing colleges and universities. Elon was recognized for volunteer service and senior-year programs.

College President Leo Lambert is pleased with the rating.

"Elon's mission is to offer students a liberal arts education that enriches them as human beings and

prepares them for a life of service through character- and career-oriented programs," Lambert said.

AΦΩ is a great way to get involved in college and community based service programs. Founded Dec. 16, 1925, current membership exceeds 17,000 nationally.

Derived from the Boy Scouts of America, AΦΩ is based on three cardinal principles: Leadership, friendship and service. Similar to other fraternities AΦΩ begins as a college experience and becomes a lifetime commitment.

Last December, the chapter was recognized nationally. Currently, there are nine active brothers and eight pledges in Elon's chapter of AΦΩ. Although AΦΩ is known as a service fraternity women

can also pledge.

AΦΩ turned co-ed in 1978. Elon's chapter has an open door policy.

If a student pledges, they will get a bid. There is also zero tolerance on hazing and Elon is a dry chapter.

Typical service events AΦΩ is recognized for include Adopt-A-Highway, Safe Rides, canned food drives for the Burlington Soup Kitchen, the removal of old flyers around campus and regular readings to kids.

On the first Friday of every month, members spend an afternoon with mentally handicapped children.

Senior Drew Neil is president of AΦΩ and has been a member

since spring of '97.

Neil says it has shaped his overall Elon experience.

"Like any organization it becomes your social life. A lot of my really good friends belong to it," Neil said. "It has given me leadership opportunities. I think it is a wonderful experience."

AΦΩ is looking forward to hosting a regional conference this spring at Elon, in which eight other regional schools are expected to attend.

Classes will be taught on leadership and the history of AΦΩ. A dinner dance will also be among festivities.

For more information, contact Drew Neil or advisor Jim Brown.

Riding the Copper Top Spirit

Kristin Conn
The Pendulum

The practice of volunteerism is becoming ever more popular in today's society. It is common for college students, high school students and other members of communities to dedicate their time to the cause of helping others.

The spirit of volunteerism can be seen across many college campuses. It is especially evident on Elon's campus. There are many programs available at Elon whose sole purpose is to provide service. Elon Volunteers! and Circle K are just a few.

Copper Top is a branch of Elon Volunteers! The Copper Top program is one of the more unique programs available to Elon students.

"The program provides therapeutic horse back riding for people with physical, emotional and mental disabilities," said student volunteer and Elon Volunteers! coordinator Lizzie Gilbert.

The success of the program can be attributed to the programs association with animals.

Gilbert explained that often times those with disabilities benefit greatly from this. According to Gilbert, the majority of the people helped through the program are children.

However, some adults also participate. Physically, through riding horses, the program helps to strengthen muscles of the body that are not normally exercised.

Mentally the program teaches discipline and responsibility.

"After the completion of the program the members should have the ability to care for a horse by themselves," Gilbert said.

The Copper Top program is run by an off-campus organization that is not associated with the college.

However, through EV! many students are actively involved with the program.

Copper Top offers a variety of local and school internships throughout the school term and also during the summer months.

The volunteers involved can dedicate as much or as little time as possible to the program.

Gilbert said that she volunteers an estimated 20 hours a week.

But for Gilbert and the other volunteers, the time is well spent.