new freshman class

Class of 2006

outstanding class of freshmen enters
different states and even from differ-
s offers a unique blend of qualified stu-
ir academic careers, but in other areas
from the admissions office, the follow-
eers. From participating in competitive
s, these students have set themselves
the class of 2006.

Lauren Sussina

As the daughter of a New York City firefighter, Lauren Sussina experienced more than a major news event on Sept. 11. As her family coped with the tragedy while supporting her father's work, Sussina volunteered with a World Trade Center disaster relief team.

"Post 9-11, I realize nothing in life is guaranteed," she said. "I have learned to cherish every moment spent with my loved ones. The most rewarding aspect of my work with the World Trade Center disaster relief is the sense of community strength that I felt in the worst of times. I realized that every helping hand and every donation, large or small, aided in one way or another to victims and their families."

The business major says volunteering is a way to make a difference in the community. Sussina is also involved with Think Globally, Act Locally, a student volunteer organization that takes a local approach to addressing world-wide problems.

Though just 18, Maia Wirth is an influential community activist. Wirth, 18, founded Students Helping In Neighborhood Everywhere, SHINE, in her hometown of Apex, N.C., to get students involved in their communities.

"In organizing events and participating in projects, SHINE members build a sense of pride in themselves and their community and learn to handle issues professionally with integrity, responsibility and a positive attitude," Wirth said.

Local chapters of the organization participate in at least one community service project each month.

Wirth says she wants to start a SHINE chapter at Elon and continue her volunteer work.

Wirth also teaches dance at Holly Springs School of Dance. She will be pursuing a degree in music education.

Maia Wirth

ly in his own community, but throughout the
s that promote peace, such as the Lynchburg
about violence and poverty.
peace in some small way," he said.
captain of the baseball and a member of the

Dominic Barrett

ething she enjoyed into something that could help her finance her
igh school, Hickman received 48 awards and scholarships and won
scholarships were earned in her senior year.
vards came from my volunteer service in the community or on year-
essay contests, I wrote about the people I encountered while volun-
e a difference to them resulted in them making an even greater dif-

Students Against Drunk Driving and helped to start two SADD chap-
iting grants for start-up funds. She has been a spokesperson for the
gh O'Brien Youth Leader and was recently inducted as YMCA's
has also volunteered her time to the Making A Difference Tutoring
hildren learn English.
major, but plans to look into possible focuses in law, business man-

of studying abroad. Five years of French classes paid off when she
ol.
zing thing that could have happened to me," she said. "It made me
and frustrating while at the same time absolutely invigorating."
guages, Hilliard, from New Fairfield, Conn., also enjoys acting and
young age that acting was something she she wanted to do and she
r productions.

When Scott Frankel sets a goal for himself, he works hard to achieve it.

"When I was 7 years old, my father got me started in Tae Kwon Do," he said "When I first began, I set a goal, and that was to become a black belt. As the years went by, I stuck to my goal and after five years, my goal was accomplished."

Frankel, a native of Alexandria, Va., also values volunteer service. While holding numerous leadership positions in the Key Club, he began tutoring and recycling programs at his high school. He also spent time at nursing homes and homeless shelters in his hometown.

"What I am most proud of is the difference I have made in my community," Frankel said.

He is majoring in business.

Scott Frankel

Shelby Peterson

For Shelby Peterson, Elon may seem a little flat. Peterson, from Ashburnham, Mass., is a competitive ski racer. In just three years of competition, she has skied in the state championships for the Central Massachusetts League, led her team as a captain and was given the distinction of "Most Improved Skier." Thereafter, she captained the team and returned to the state championships each year. "Skiing is something for me that had always been recreational," she said. "Racing took it to the next level."

In high school, Peterson was a member of the student government and the field hockey team and worked as a Little League umpire.

"The game is even harder to play behind the plate, but it added a whole new dimension to the sport for me," she said.

During her free time, Peterson enjoys running, hiking and recreational skiing. She is interested in studying political science.

"I love to serve others in any way I can, and I look at politics as an excellent way to do it," she said.