

# Students live together, serve together

**Stephen Earley**  
Reporter

When most freshmen were meeting their roommates and deciding how to arrange their room, those in the Service Learning Community already had 40 close friends and could offer a recommendation of where to put the MicroFridge or how to loft the beds.

Located on the third floor of Chandler, the SLC, in its eighth year, is one of the school's 11 themed-housing communities.

Freshman SLC resident Raechel Hester said the sense of community took the stress out of moving into college. "You have a built-in set of friends before anyone else shows up," she said.

With 33 freshmen and eight sophomores, the community's common interest in service sparked immediate friendships and conversation within the group. "You share something in common and have something to talk about right off the bat," freshman SLC resident Sean White said.

"We know everybody up here," said Jen Boone, one of eight sophomore facilitators. "We hang out together, we eat together, we walk to classes together. A lot of time we don't get enough sleep because we're



Tim Rosner/Photography Editor

*The service learning community participates in community service activities throughout the year. The 40 students live together while maintaining a commitment to service.*

up chit-chatting."

SLC freshmen also got an instant taste of leadership. Helping their classmates move in was their first service project of the year. "It was weird to be on the other side," Hester said.

The Service Learning Community is divided into three subcommittees: service, which organizes a monthly service project (this month members volunteered at a 5K race in Burlington); social,

which organizes floor outings such as dinners or concerts, and campus involvement, which involves the group in campus events such as Sportsfest and Homecoming.

One of the community's goals is to give the group more exposure at Elon, sophomore facilitator Darris Means said. "We're very diverse," he said. "We don't just do service all the time. We have people in fraternities, fine arts and other activi-

ties."

Course-linked service is also part of the program. Twenty-five SLC freshmen are in the same college writing class. Their section tackles community service in conjunction with coursework.

Ten SLC freshmen will have another unique academic-service opportunity during Winter Term. On a first-come, first-serve basis, SLC freshmen can enroll in a "Call to Service" course. After doing service in

Burlington, the class volunteers at soup kitchens and shelters in Washington, D.C.

"It was really cool to see that we had an affect on a community that we didn't live in," said Boone, who participated in the class last year.

"You get a different perspective on what a city is like versus the Burlington area," added Means.

He said the exposure is what makes service so valuable. "Coming into college I had a lot of stereotypes, especially about homeless people," Means said. "Since, my stereotypes have diminished, I've learned so much about people. I have a new perspective on life and how fortunate I am."

Kathy Manning, director of service learning, said SLC service projects vary from year to year. "We like students to take initiative to plan projects that they're interested in."

Projects the community has worked on in the past include working with Loaves and Fishes, the Boys and Girls Club and the Positive Attitude Youth Center.

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# International center expands student services

**Matt Belanger**  
Reporter

A dedication ceremony held yesterday afternoon in Whitley to commemorate the opening of the Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies the newly renovated Carlton building. International students, dressed in their native attire, were the first to enter the building as the center officially opened its doors for student use.

The concept of creating a new international center at Elon has been in planning for more than two years. All three floors of Carlton building were redesigned and remodeled. Faculty and staff moved into the building this summer.

Some of the major improvements

the new center offers include a self-contained design and centralized location on campus.

The center houses the study-abroad program, international student advisers and offices for the international studies on the first floor.

"This new facility has the ability to bring people together to talk and discuss, and also allows them to be energized by the [multi-cultural] environment," said Bill Rich, dean of international programs. "Students can choose to come themselves or come to learn as an organized group."

Decorated with international flags and eclectic furniture from Isabella Cannon's estate, the center is also outfitted with extensive research technology. Students can access

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computers and a research library to explore internship opportunities and study-abroad options, as well as to research international issues.

The center is specifically designed to encourage students to learn about world cultures. Rich said he believes that this self-driven approach is an essential part of the center's effectiveness.

"Any good facility should be looked at as a verb, not as a noun," Rich said. "This center will facilitate

intellectual discussion and help students to experience other cultures, resulting in students that are better prepared to live in our ever-shrinking world."

President Leo Lambert said he views the center as a direct continuation of the goals of the university. Lambert believes that the center's prominent location on campus reflects the importance of international involvement at Elon.

"I think the new Cannon Centre

will contribute greatly to the intellectual life of the campus," he said.

Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto delivered the keynote address for the dedication ceremony. The Cannon Centre will host a number of prominent international figures throughout the year, including representatives from Costa Rica, China and England.

Rich said the new center will be better equipped to handle the demands of today's global society. He said the center will play a key role in "understanding the international diversity of our own environment and our continually changing world."

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